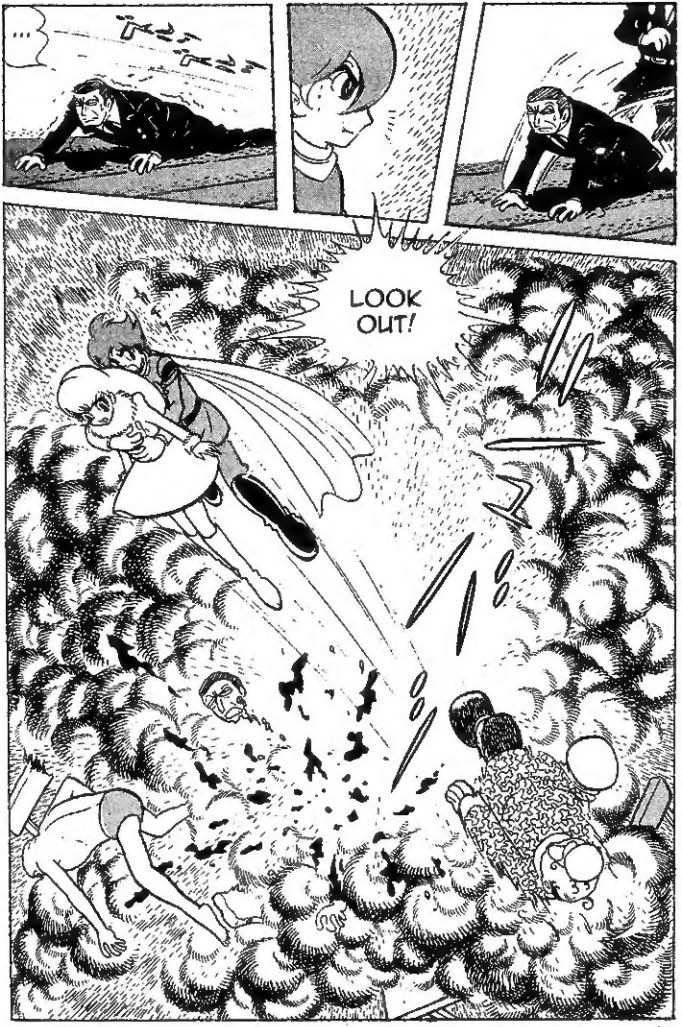
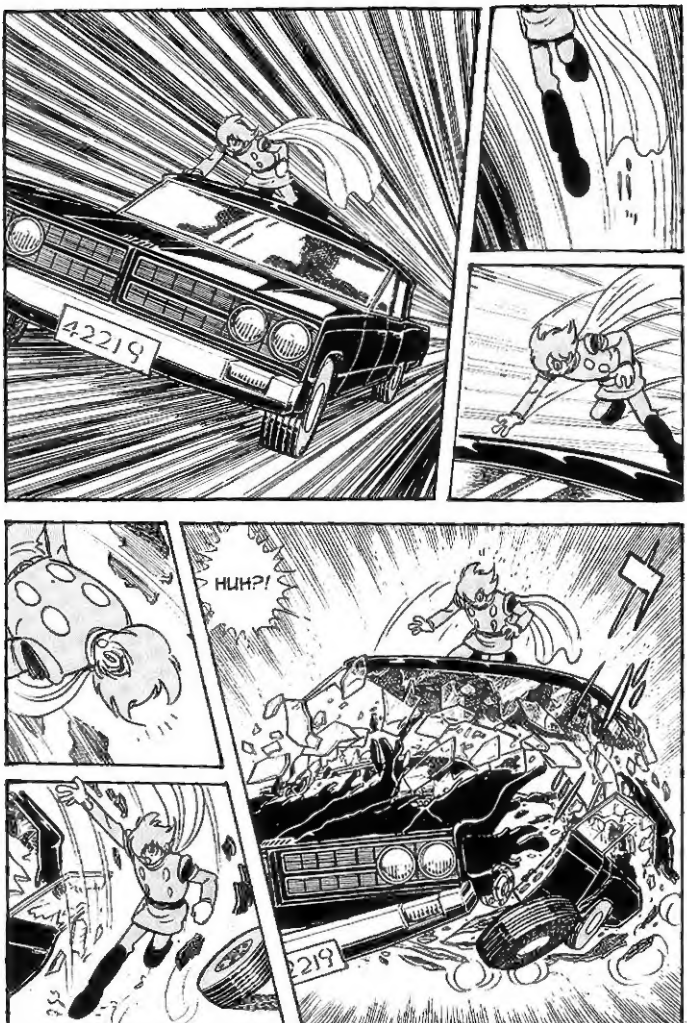
CHAPTER 5 PROGRAM E


...
LOOK OUT!

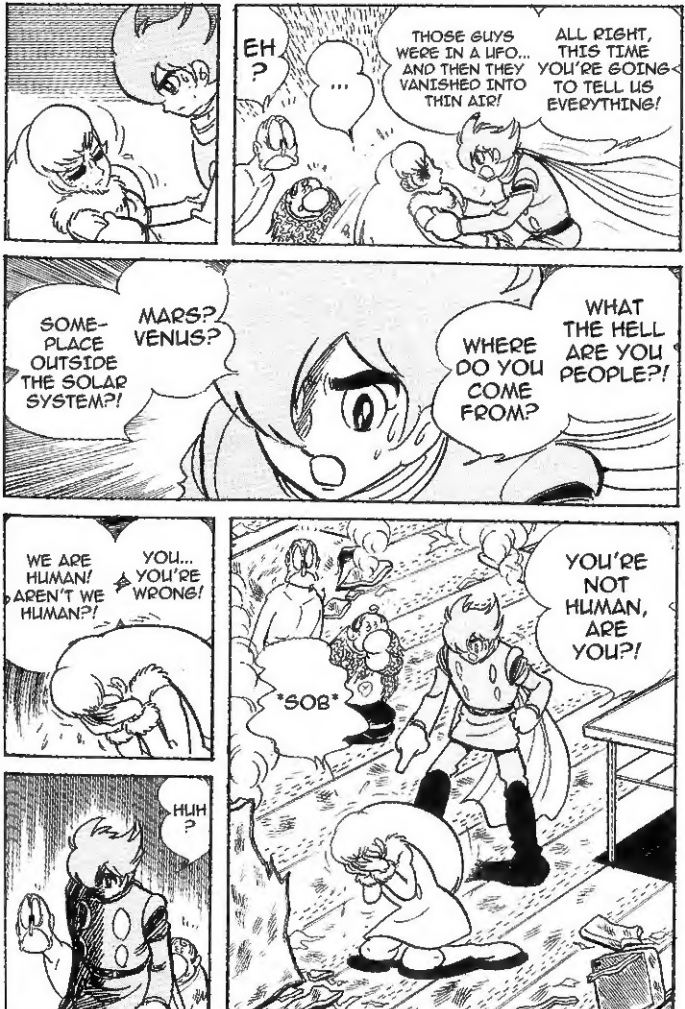
WE'RE ALIVE... BARELY.
OO OHH ...
CHANG-CHANG-KU!
GB!
Y... YES...
ARE YOU OKAY?!
"COUGH, COUGH"
AH-HUH ...
TAKE CARE OF HER!


42219
HUH?!
2219

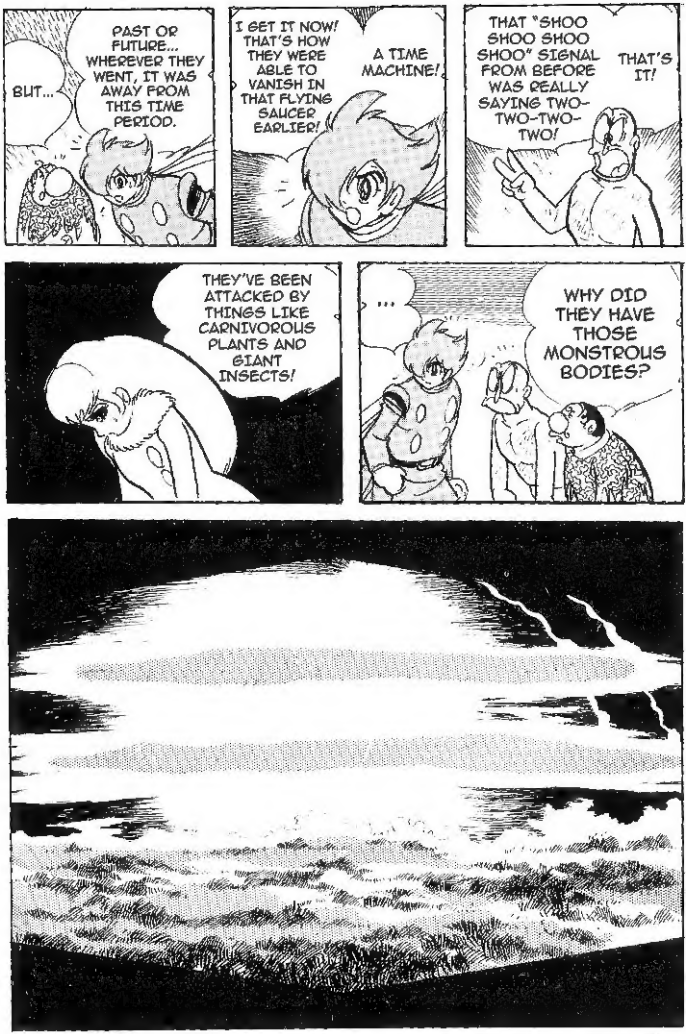
O-OHH
42219

...
IT'S GONE NOW. I HEARD SOME-THING, THOUGH...
WHAT WAS THAT ?
IT... DISAP-PEARED ?!
HUH ?!
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK

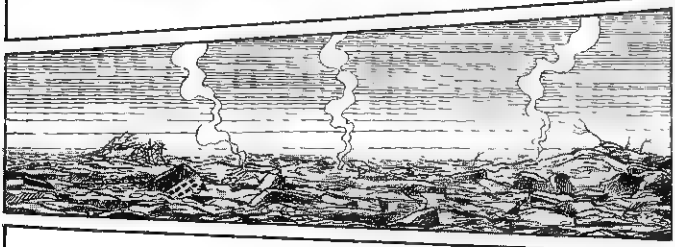
...IT DOES LOOK THAT WAY.
ISN'T THIS YOUR SHOP?
BUT IT'S JUST A BUNCH OF METAL SIDING AND DEBRIS.
OH?
WASN'T SOMEONE JUST STANDING HERE...?
EH?
IT WAS JUST A DREAM...
LET'S AGREE ...
...


EH?
...
THOSE GUYS WERE IN A UFO... AND THEN THEY VANISHED INTO THIN AIR!
ALL RIGHT, THIS TIME YOU'RE GOING TO TELL US EVERYTHING!
SOME-PLACE OUTSIDE THE SOLAR SYSTEM?!
MARS? VENUS?
WHERE DO YOU COME FROM?
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU PEOPLE?!
WE ARE HUMAN! AREN'T WE HUMAN?!
YOU... YOU'RE WRONG!
HUH?
SOB
YOU'RE NOT HUMAN, ARE YOU?!

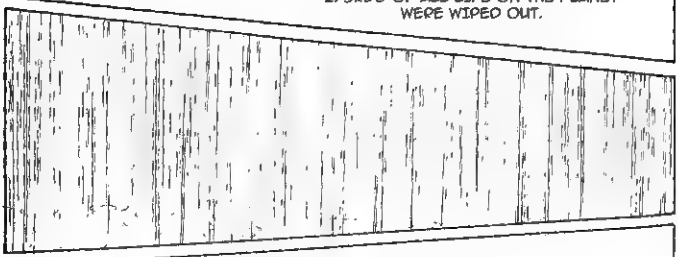
WE'RE YOUR DESCENDANTS!!
SAY?!
DID SHE...
WHAT ...
FROM THE FUTURE...?!
YOU MEAN YOU'RE...
DESCENDANTS, SHE SAYS!
WE'RE WORKING FOR PROGRAM E, THAT IS TO SAY, AN IMMIGRATION INITIATIVE.
WE'RE COVERT OPERATIVES MAKING PREPARATIONS.
THREE HUNDRED YEARS FROM NOW, IN THE YEAR WE CALL TWO-TWO-TWO-TWO, THE TIME MACHINE WILL BE INVENTED.
YES... 2222.


BUT...
PAST OR FUTURE... WHEREVER THEY WENT, IT WAS AWAY FROM THIS TIME PERIOD.
I GET IT NOW! THAT'S HOW THEY WERE ABLE TO VANISH IN THAT FLYING SAUCER EARLIER!
A TIME MACHINE!
THAT "SHOO SHOO SHOO SHOO" SIGNAL FROM BEFORE WAS REALLY SAYING TWO-TWO-TWO-TWO!
THAT'S IT!
THEY'VE BEEN ATTACKED BY THINGS LIKE CARNIVOROUS PLANTS AND GIANT INSECTS!
...
WHY DID THEY HAVE THOSE MONSTROUS BODIES?

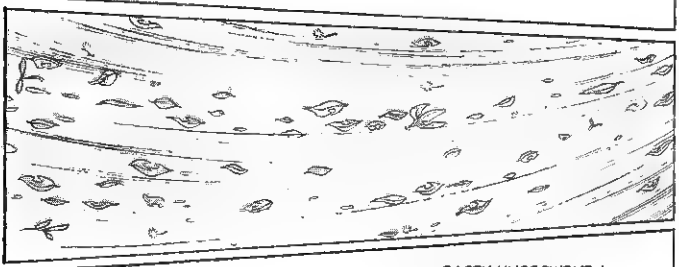
MAY, 19XX...
COUNTRY A AND COUNTRY B
SET OFF WORLD WAR III.



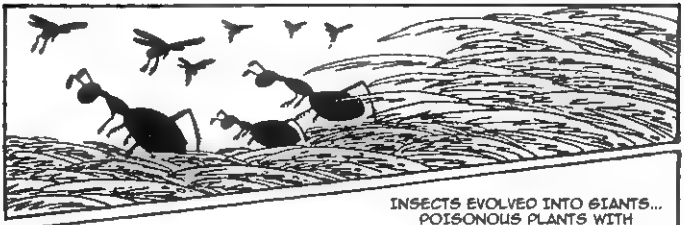
NATURALLY, THE FIGHTING TURNED TO NUCLEAR WAR, AND AS A RESULT 2/3RDS OF ALL LIFE ON THE PLANET WERE WIPED OUT.



AND SO... A LONG, DARK AGE ENSUED!

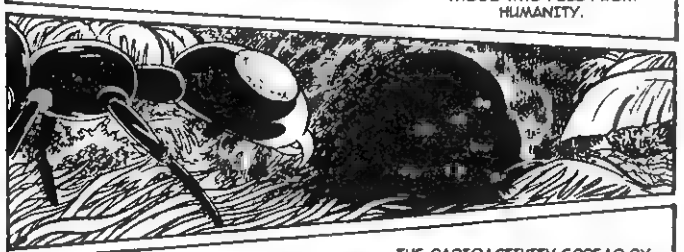


EARTH UNDERWENT A COMPLETE CHANGE.

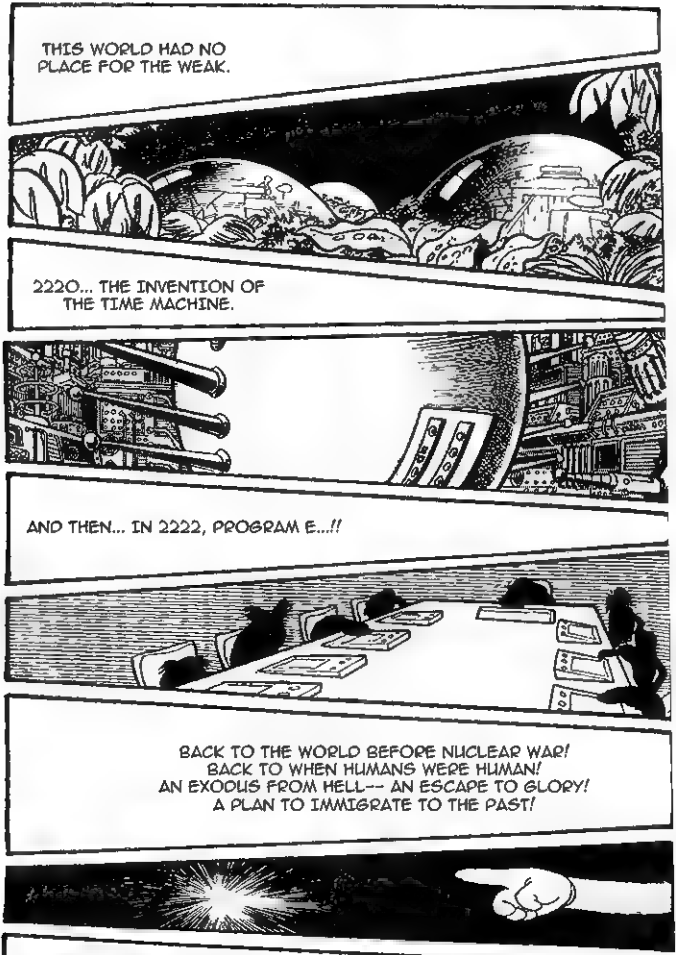


INSECTS EVOLVED INTO GIANTS... POISONOUS PLANTS WITH GRASPING THORNS FLOURISHED! THERE WERE NEW BACTERIA, NEW ILLNESSES.

AND THEN... AND THEN... IN THE RACE FOR SURVIVAL, THOSE WHO FELL FROM HUMANITY.



THE RADIOACTIVITY SPREAD BY THE NUCLEAR WEAPONS MADE LIVING THINGS FEROCIOUS!


THIS WORLD HAD NO PLACE FOR THE WEAK.
2220... THE INVENTION OF THE TIME MACHINE.
AND THEN... IN 2222, PROGRAM E...!!
BACK TO THE WORLD BEFORE NUCLEAR WAR!
BACK TO WHEN HUMANS WERE HUMAN!
AN EXODUS FROM HELL-- AN ESCAPE TO GLORY!
A PLAN TO IMMIGRATE TO THE PAST!
A TEAM TO FIND A PLACE FOR ALL THAT REMAINED OF HUMANITY TO EMIGRATE TO WAS SENT FIRST...

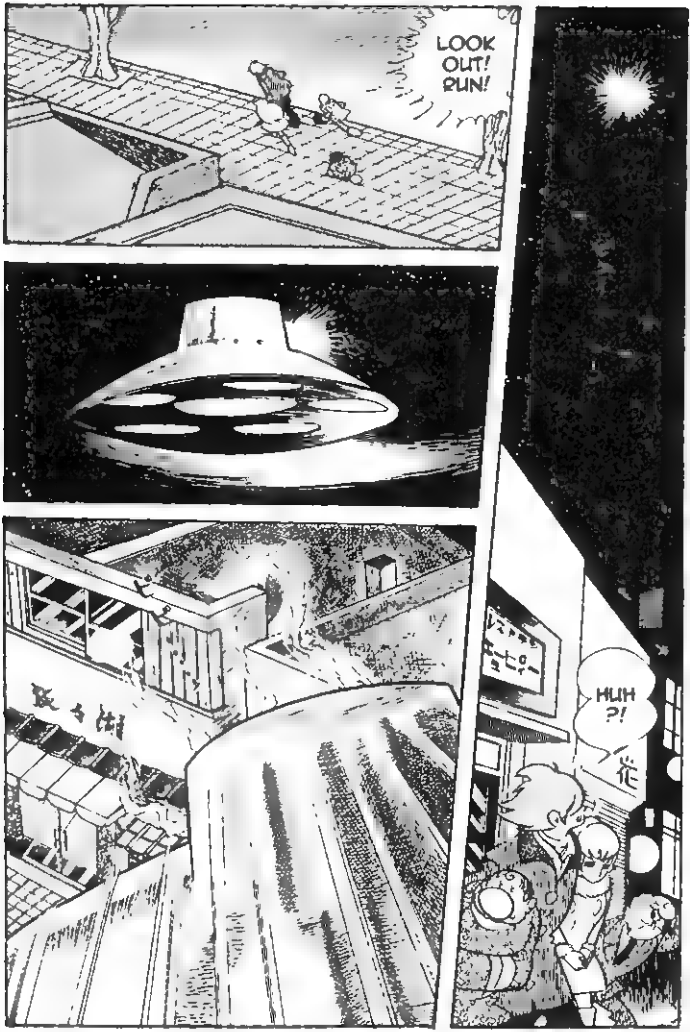
WHEN SELECTING SPIES, THE LEAST INJURED AMONG US WERE CHOSEN.
WE ESTABLISHED A BASE, DID OUR BEST TO BLEND IN... WE INFILTRATED YOUR SOCIETY.
WHAT INJURIES WE DID HAVE WERE COVERED BY CONSTRUCTED BODY PARTS.

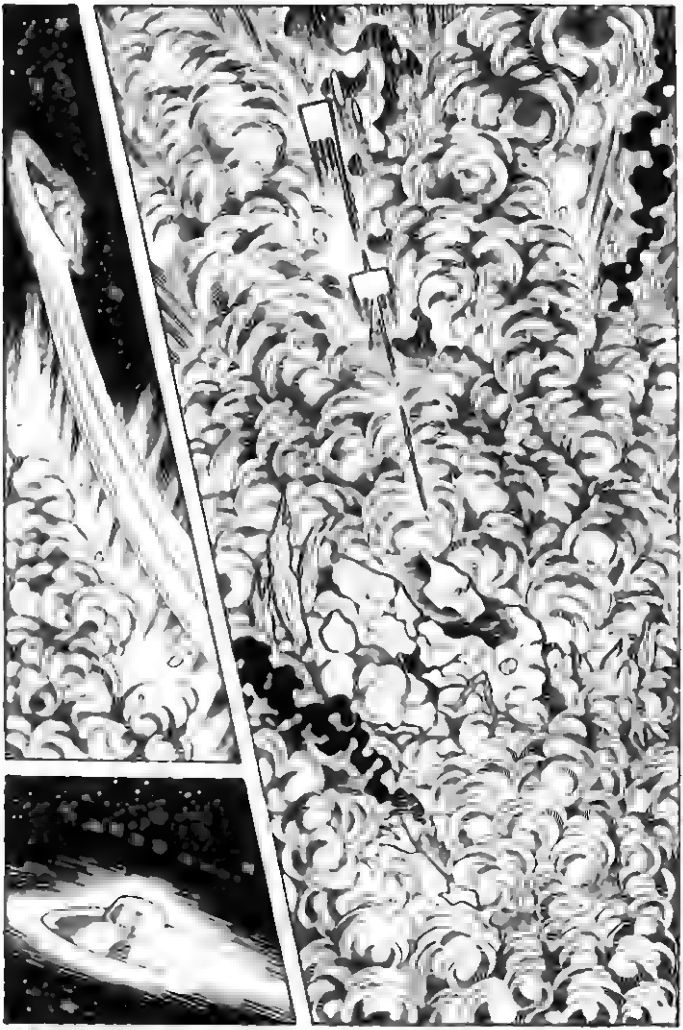
WE WERE TO KILL AND TRADE PLACES WITH THEM. IF WE SEIZED THEIR POWER, WE COULD AFFECT THE MASSES EASILY.
THE MOST IMPORTANT PEOPLE IN YOUR GOVERNMENT, YOUR MOST SUCCESSFUL CAPITALISTS... YOUR SCIENTISTS... IN SHORT, THE VERY MOST IMPORTANT PEOPLE OF YOUR TIME--
NOW... OUR DUTY...
THAT'S WHY WE NEEDED PROSTHETIC LEGS AND ARMS, AND MASKS.
WE HAVE TO FIND A WAY TO STOP THEM!
WE WON'T LET THIS INVASION HAPPEN.
LET'S GET TO PROF. GILMORE'S PLACE QUICKLY!
YOU'RE SAYING SOME POLITICIANS, OR THE PRESIDENTS AND CEOS OF SOME BIG COMPANIES COULD BE...
FROM THE FUTURE ?!
I THINK ABOUT 13.
UM... SO, ABOUT HOW MANY PEOPLE WERE YOU GOING TO TRADE PLACES WITH?
I REALLY AM SORRY FOR YOUR PLIGHT... BUT THIS IS OUR WORLD!
...

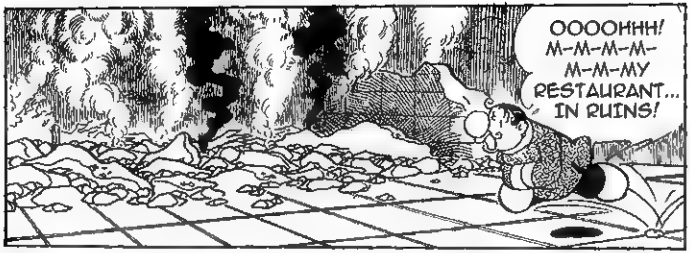
I CAN'T FORGIVE THAT YOU KILLED PEOPLE TO OPEN A SPACE FOR YOURSELVES.
BUT I CAN'T FORGIVE YOUR ACTS OF VIOLENCE.
I DON'T KNOW FOR SURE THAT YOU'RE VICTIMS OF OUR ONCOMING NUCLEAR WAR...
YOUR BROTHER? THE YOUNG MAN WITH YOU WAS YOUR BROTHER?!
Y... YES...
IF YOU ARE HUMAN, THEN SO ARE WE.
IF YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO LIVE, THEN WE ALSO HAVE A RIGHT TO THAT CLAIM!
I... I KNOW. THAT'S WHY— THAT'S WHY MY BROTHER AND I SUFFERED...
YES! BECAUSE WE LOST HIS ARM! WAAAHAAH!
WHAT?! WHO DID IT? WAS IT THOSE MEN?!
SOB HE... HE WAS KILLED!
WHAT'S WRONG? WHERE IS YOUR BROTHER RIGHT NOW...?

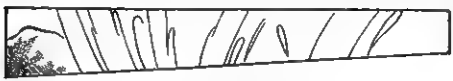
MAYBE WE CAN SETTLE THINGS PEACEFULLY WITH THEM SOMEHOW.
WE'LL SEE WHAT WE CAN DO.
CHIN UP!
...
AND HERE THE IDEA WAS TO BE MORE HUMAN!
HOLY COW!
LINA ...
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
LINA...! A CUTE NAME FOR A CUTE FACE!!
MAYBE HER FACE ISN'T REAL...
UH-OH, DID I SAY SOMETHING WRONG?
A LEG WOUND?
?
?
ANYWAY, LET'S GET TO PROFESSOR GILMORE'S LAB!
I GOT OFF EASY.
MY BROTHER LOST HIS ARM TO A CARNIVOROUS PLANT,

SIGN: CHANG CHANGKU

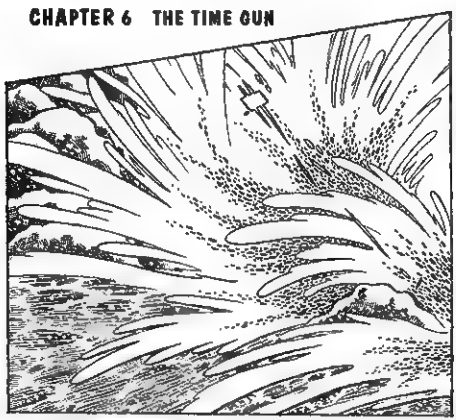

LOOK OUT! RUN!
HUH?!

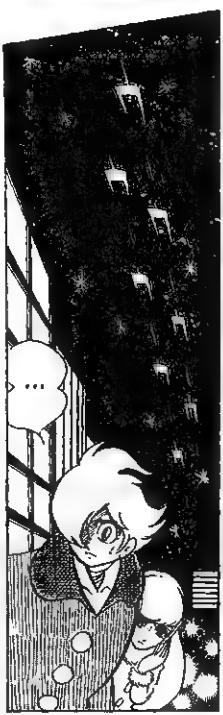


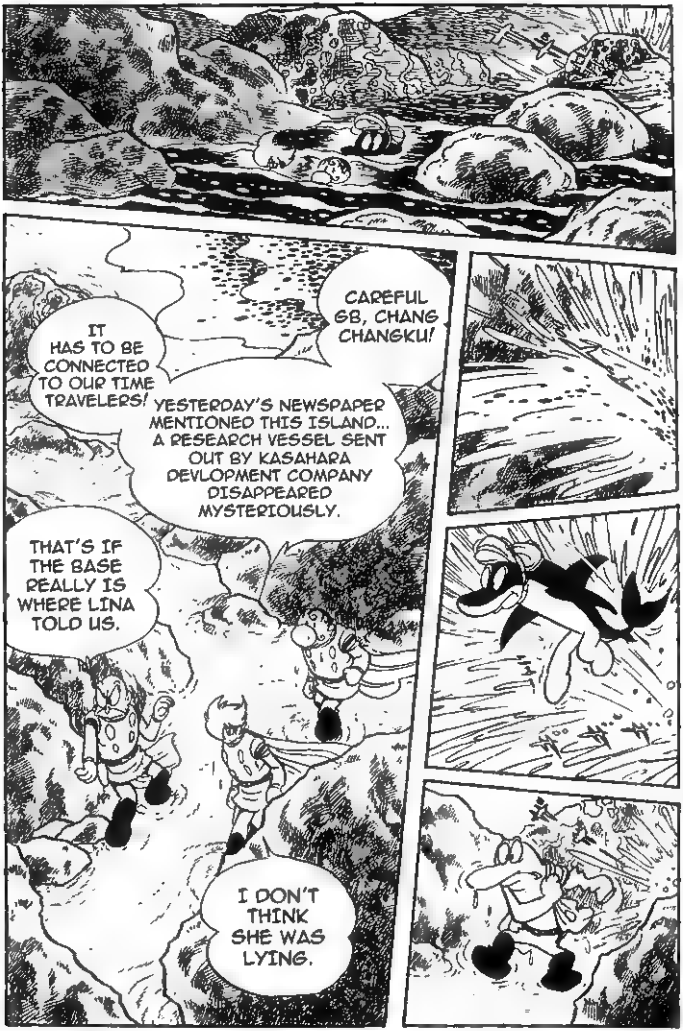


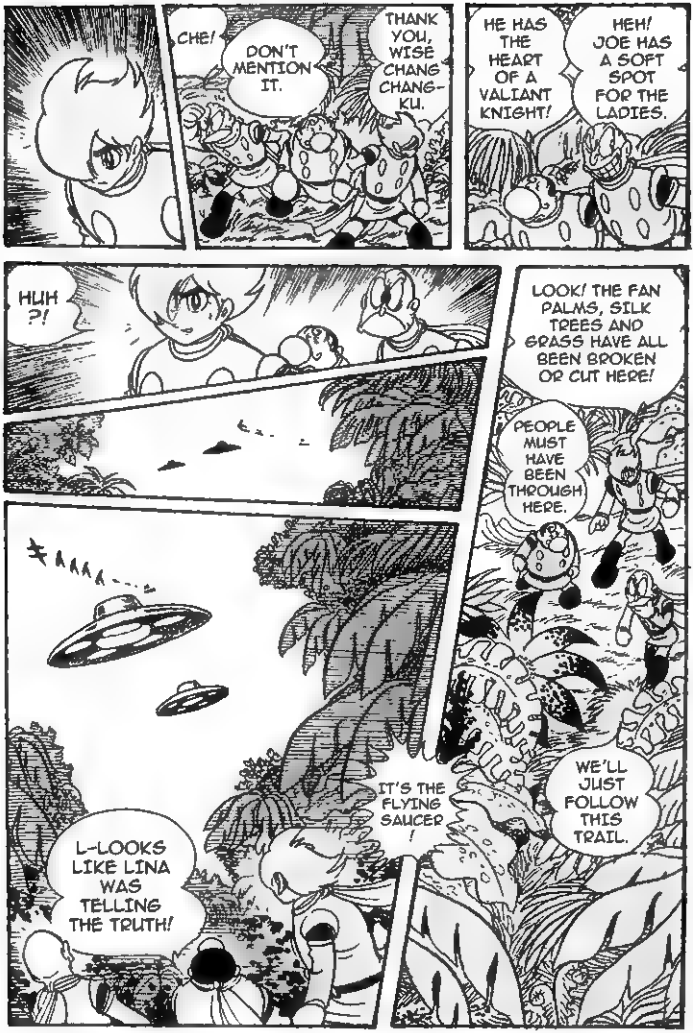


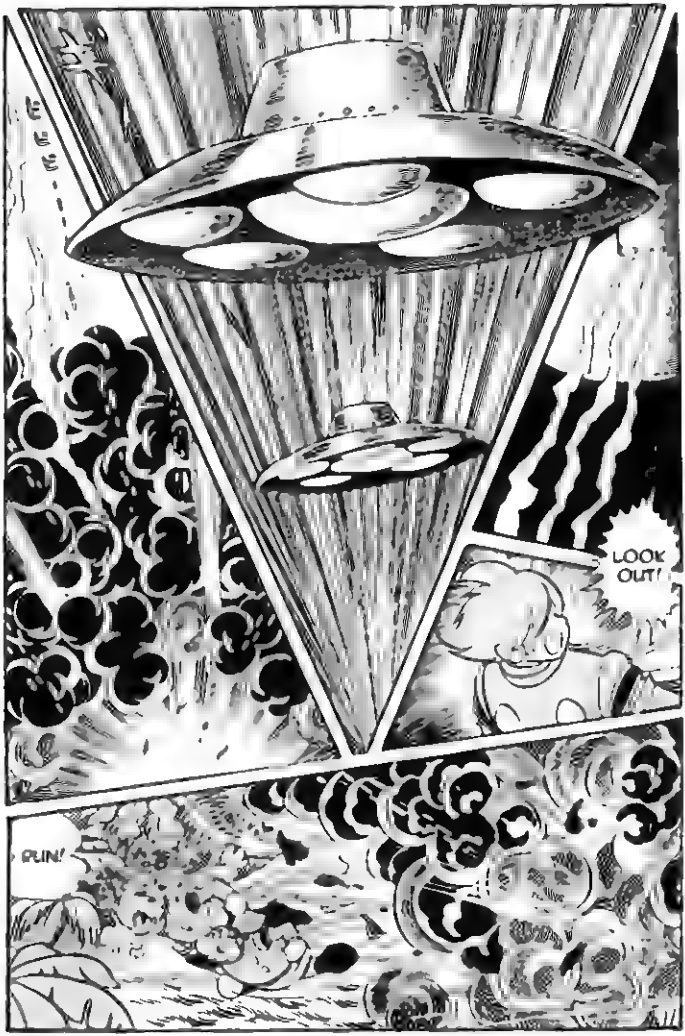
CHAPTER 6 THE TIME GUN

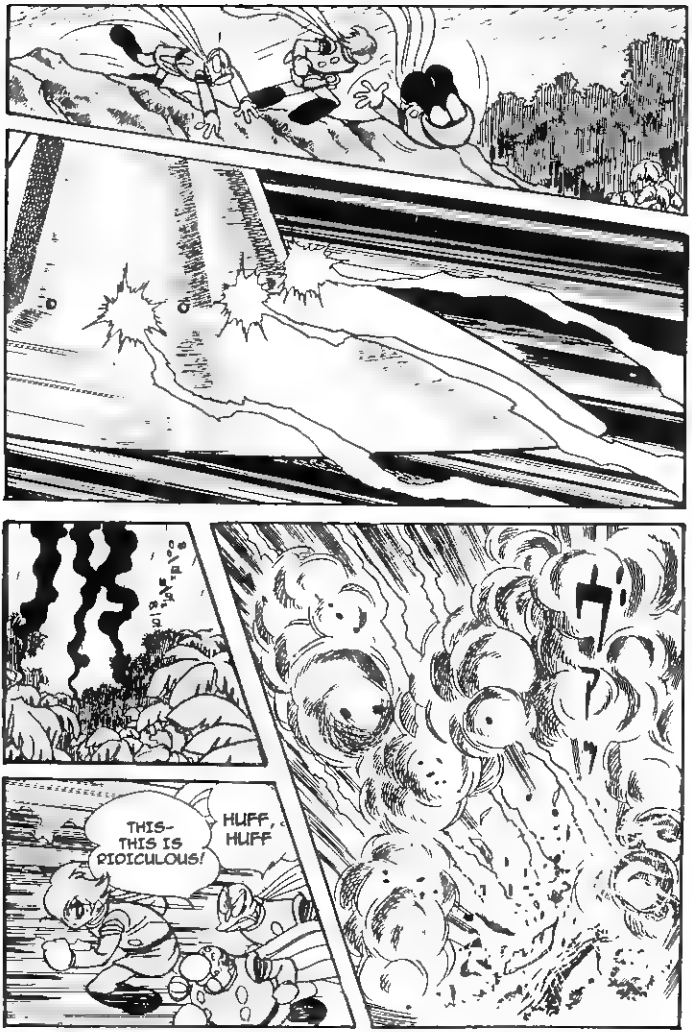


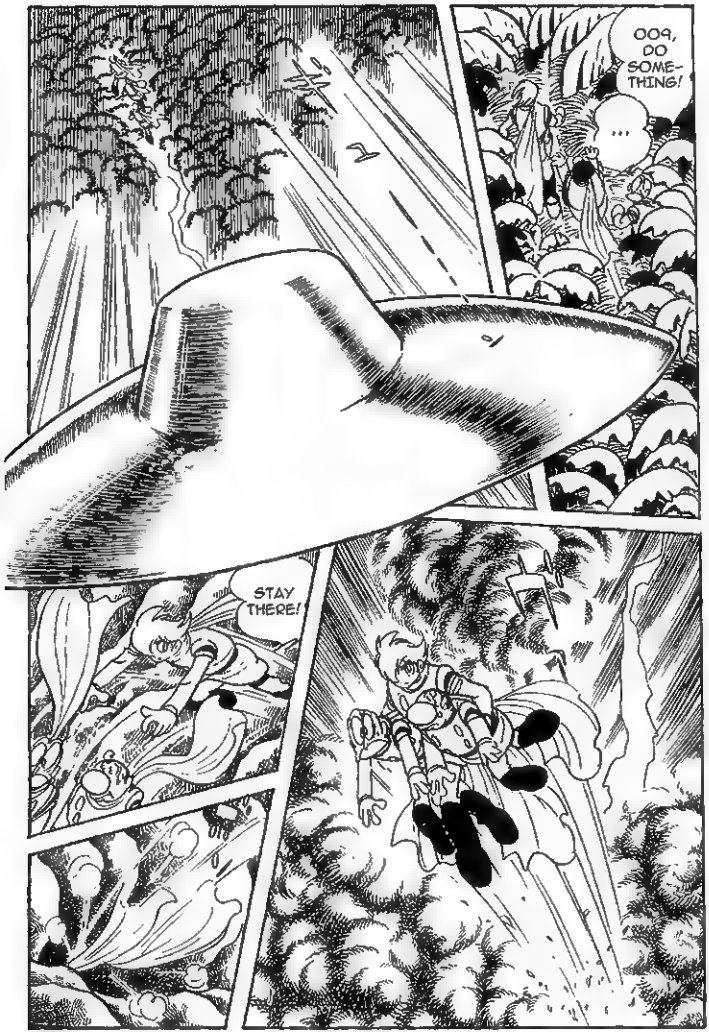


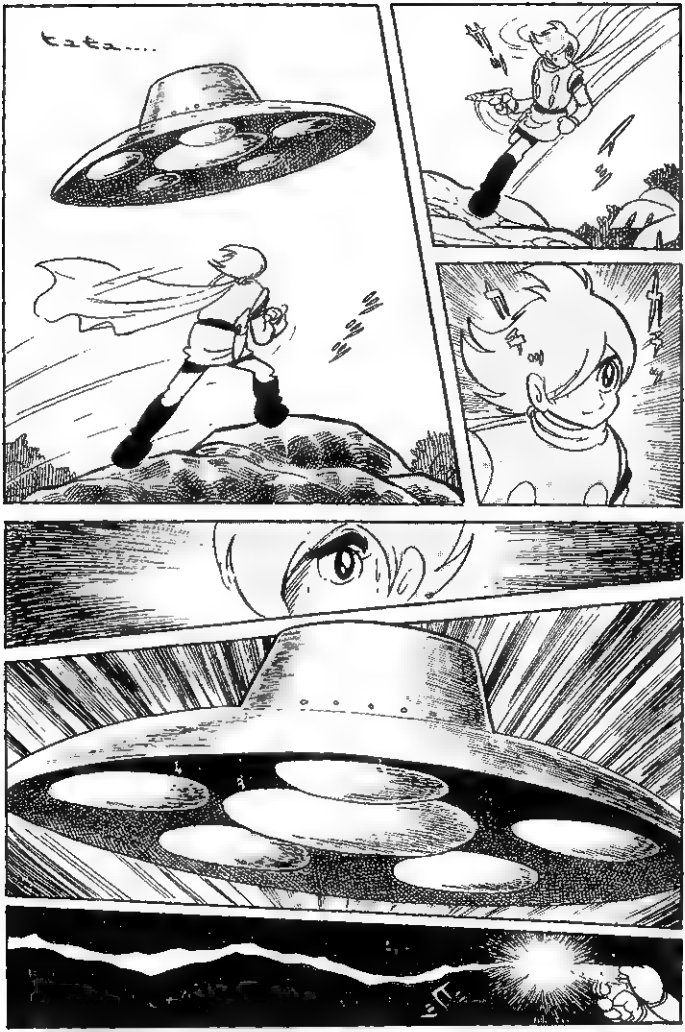

CAREFUL 68, CHANG CHANGKU!
IT HAS TO BE CONNECTED TO OUR TIME TRAVELERS!
YESTERDAY'S NEWSPAPER MENTIONED THIS ISLAND... A RESEARCH VESSEL SENT OUT BY KASAHARA DEVLOPMENT COMPANY DISAPPEARED MYSTERIOUSLY.
THAT'S IF THE BASE REALLY IS WHERE LINA TOLD US.
I DON'T THINK SHE WAS LYING.


CHE!
DON'T MENTION IT.
THANK YOU, WISE CHANG-KU.
HE HAS THE HEART OF A VALIANT KNIGHT!
HEH! JOE HAS A SOFT SPOT FOR THE LADIES.
HUH ?!
LOOK! THE FAN PALMS, SILK TREES AND GRASS HAVE ALL BEEN BROKEN OR CUT HERE!
PEOPLE MUST HAVE BEEN THROUGH HERE.
WE'LL JUST FOLLOW THIS TRAIL.
IT'S THE FLYING SAUCER !
L-LOOKS LIKE LINA WAS TELLING THE TRUTH!


LOOK OUT!
PLIN!

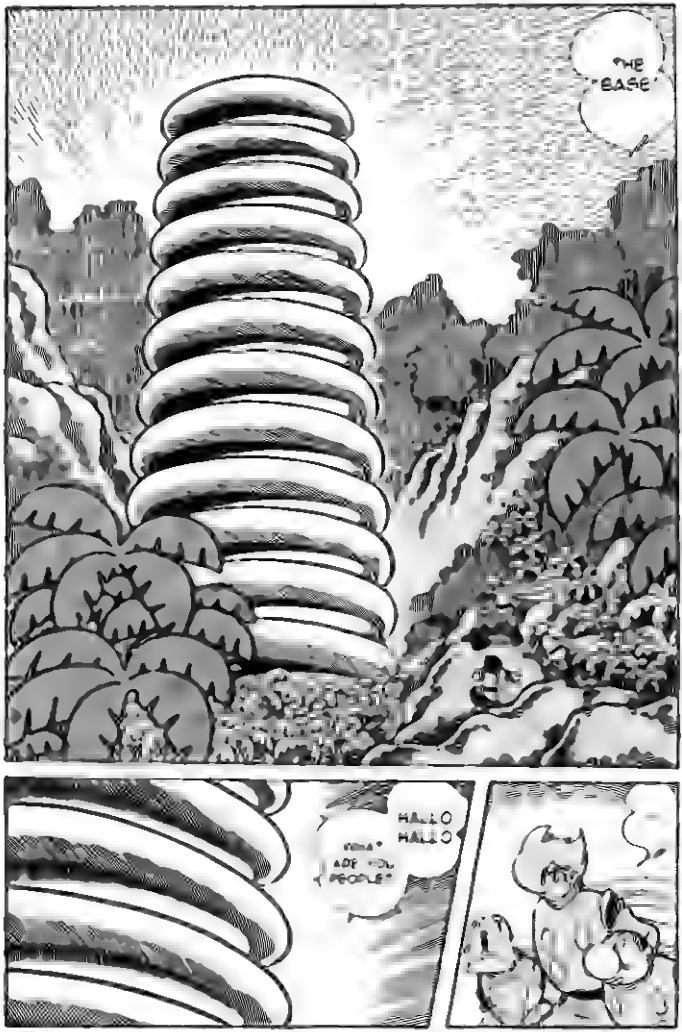

THIS-
THIS IS
RIDICULOUS!
HUFF,
HUFF

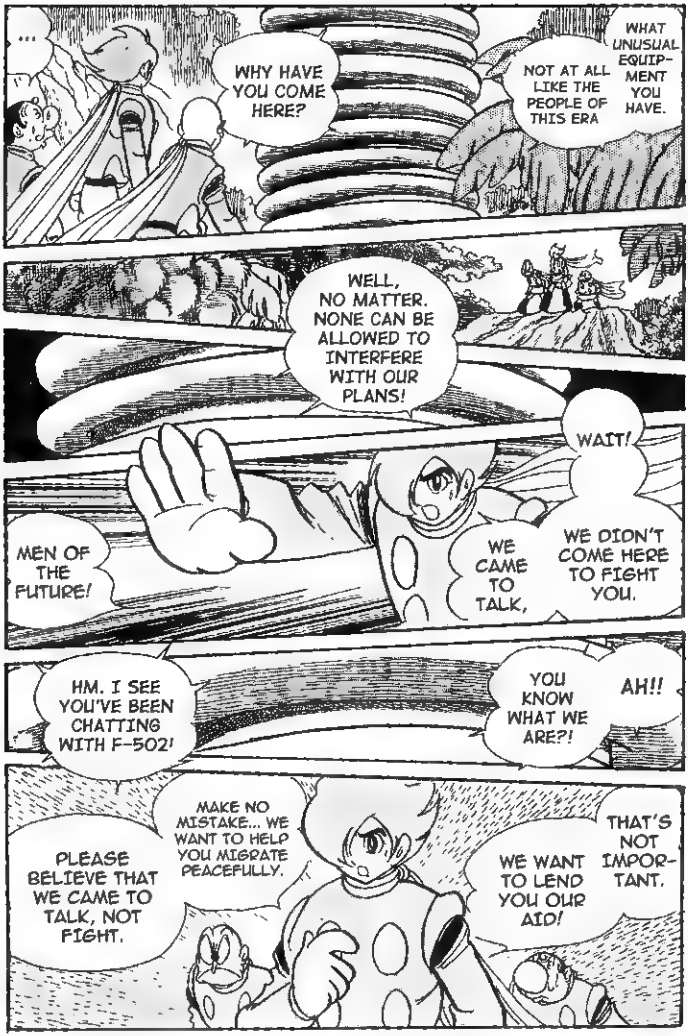

009, DO SOME-THING!
...
STAY THERE!

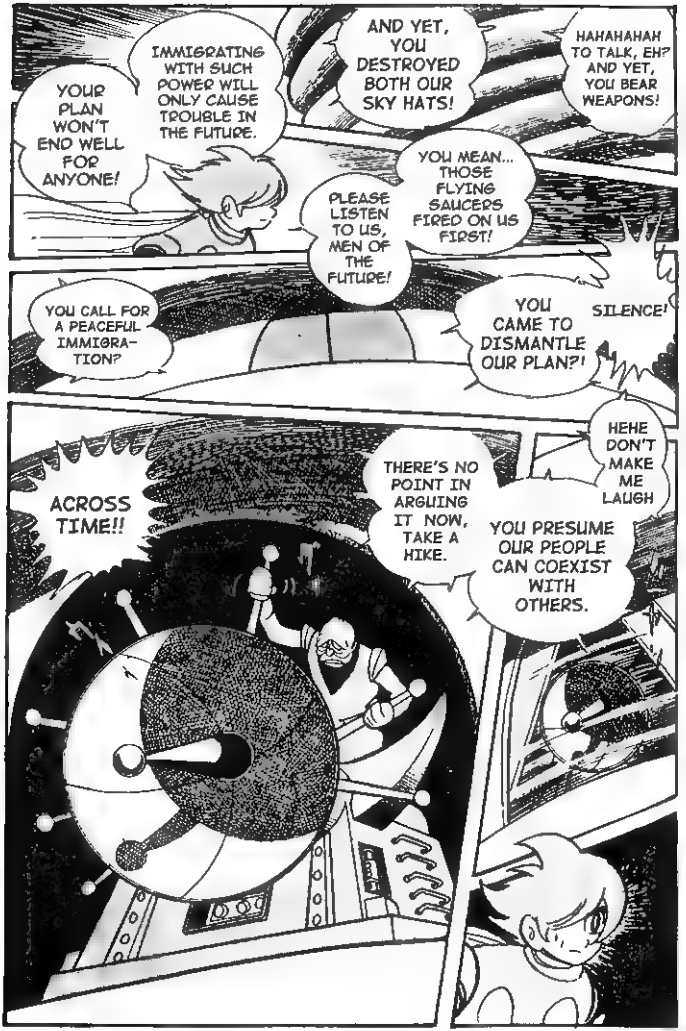

tata....

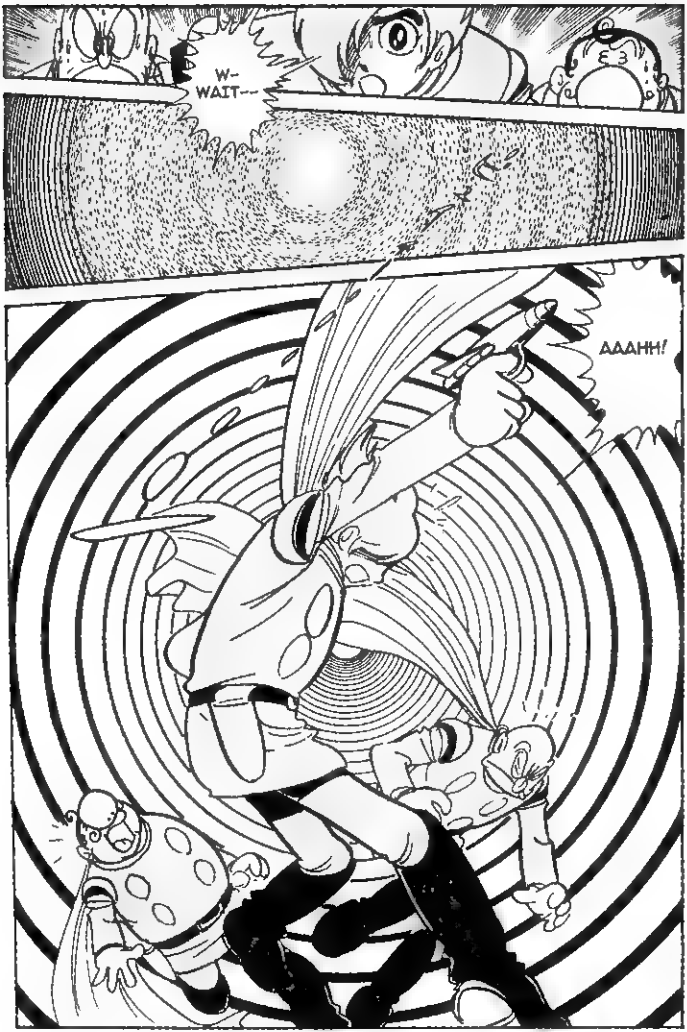
ヒュ…ヒュ…ヒュ…

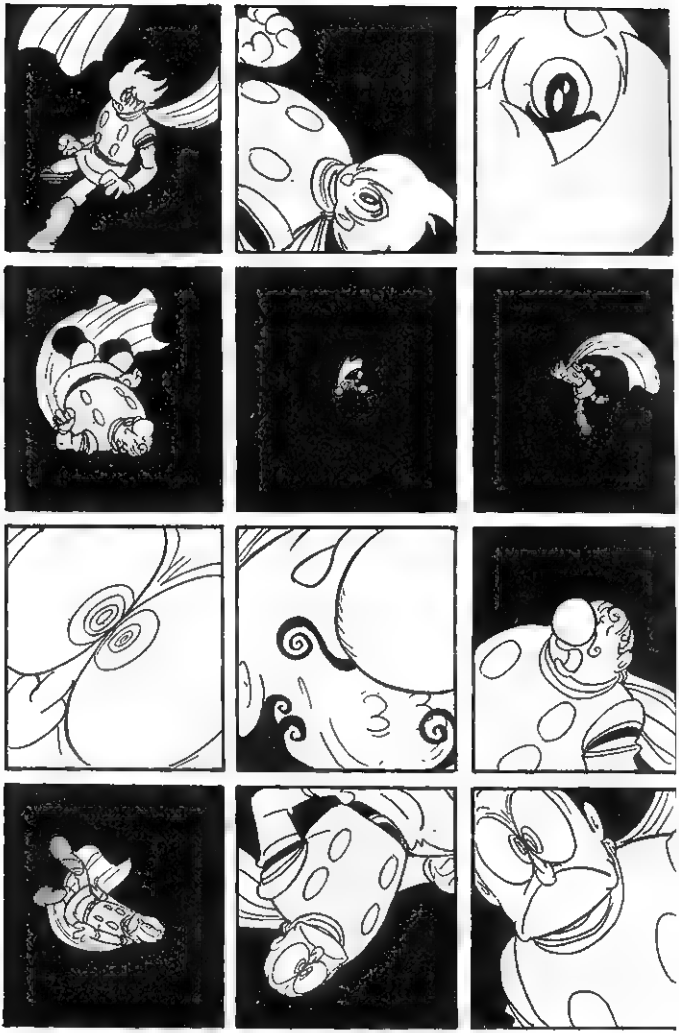
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
PHEW!
OOHOHO
OH MY
MY!
HM?!
THAT'S

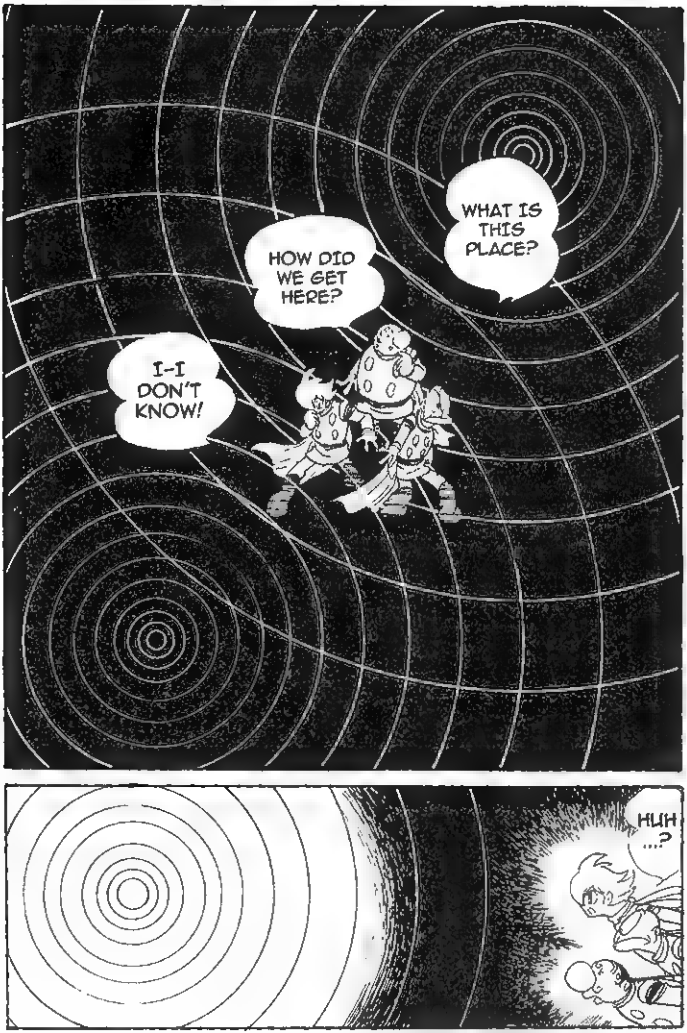

THE 'EASE'
HALLO HALLO
WHAT ARE YOU PEOPLE?

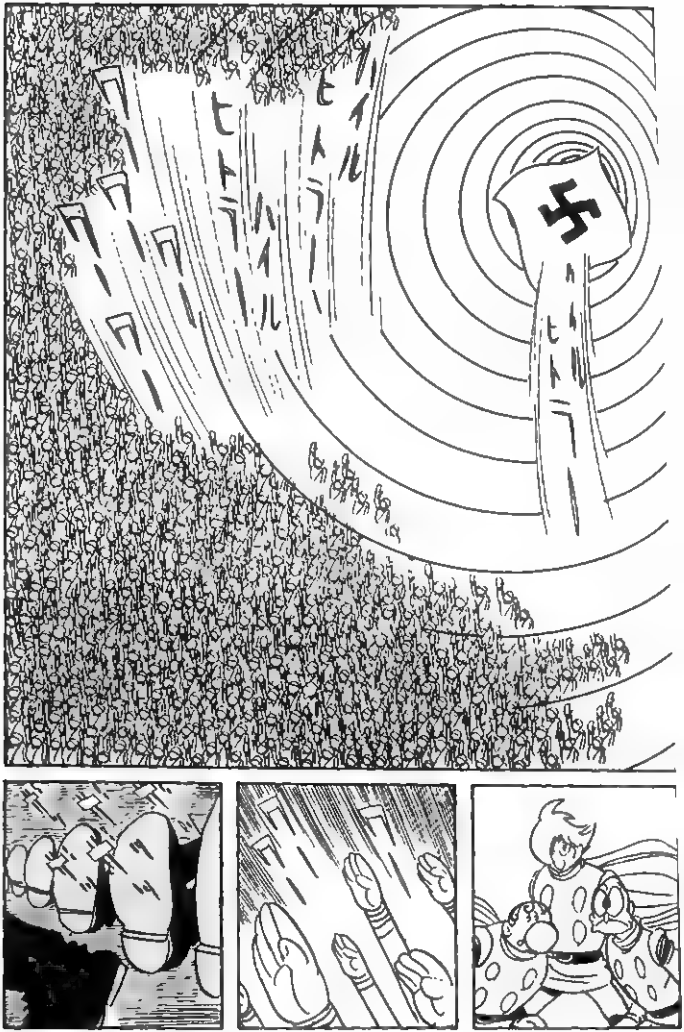

...
WHY HAVE YOU COME HERE?
NOT AT ALL LIKE THE PEOPLE OF THIS ERA
WHAT UNUSUAL EQUIP-MENT YOU HAVE.
WELL, NO MATTER. NONE CAN BE ALLOWED TO INTERFERE WITH OUR PLANS!
WAIT!
MEN OF THE FUTURE!
WE CAME TO TALK,
WE DIDN'T COME HERE TO FIGHT YOU.
HM. I SEE YOU'VE BEEN CHATTING WITH F-502!
YOU KNOW WHAT WE ARE?!
AH!!
PLEASE BELIEVE THAT WE CAME TO TALK, NOT FIGHT.
MAKE NO MISTAKE... WE WANT TO HELP YOU MIGRATE PEACEFULLY.
WE WANT TO LEND YOU OUR AID!
THAT'S NOT IMPOR-TANT.


HAHAHAHAH TO TALK, EH? AND YET, YOU BEAR WEAPONS!
AND YET, YOU DESTROYED BOTH OUR SKY HATS!
IMMIGRATING WITH SUCH POWER WILL ONLY CAUSE TROUBLE IN THE FUTURE.
YOUR PLAN WON'T END WELL FOR ANYONE!
YOU MEAN... THOSE FLYING SAUCERS FIRED ON US FIRST!
PLEASE LISTEN TO US, MEN OF THE FUTURE!
YOU CALL FOR A PEACEFUL IMMIGRATION?
SILENCE!
YOU CAME TO DISMANTLE OUR PLAN?!
HEHE DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH
THERE'S NO POINT IN ARGUING IT NOW, TAKE A HIKE.
YOU PRESUME OUR PEOPLE CAN COEXIST WITH OTHERS.
ACROSS TIME!!


W-
WAIT--
AAAHH!




WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
HOW DID WE GET HERE?
I-I DON'T KNOW!
HUH ....?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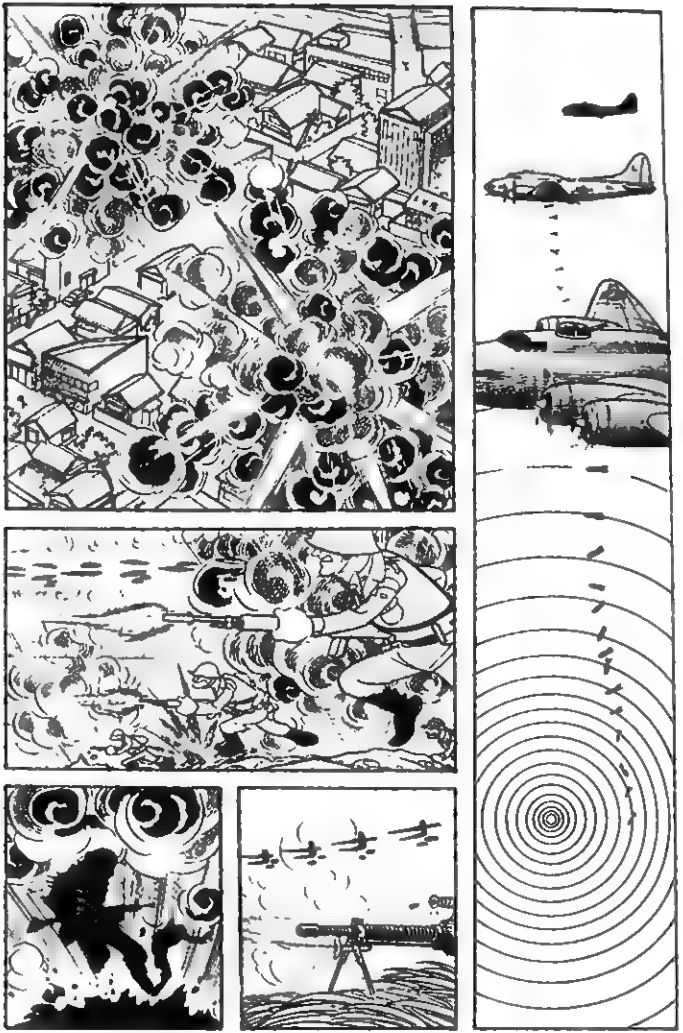
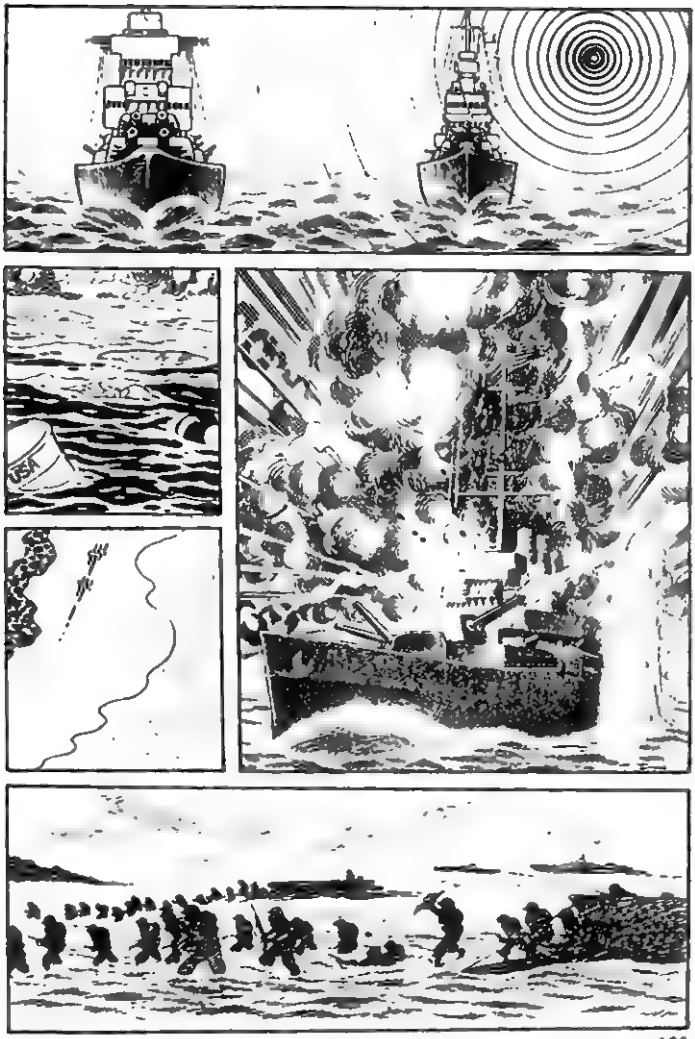
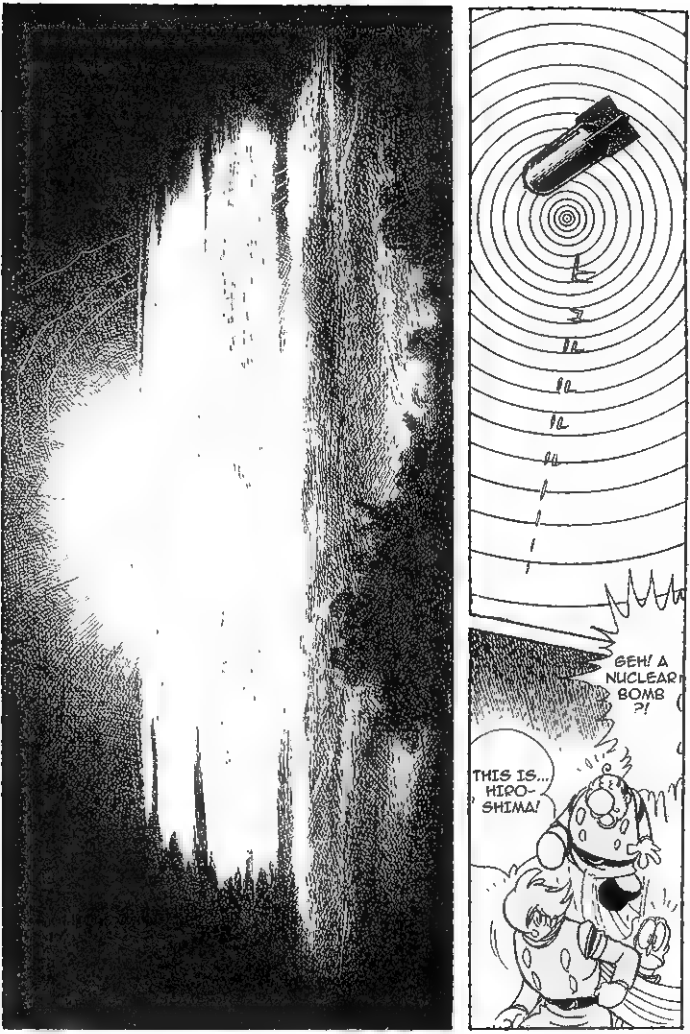
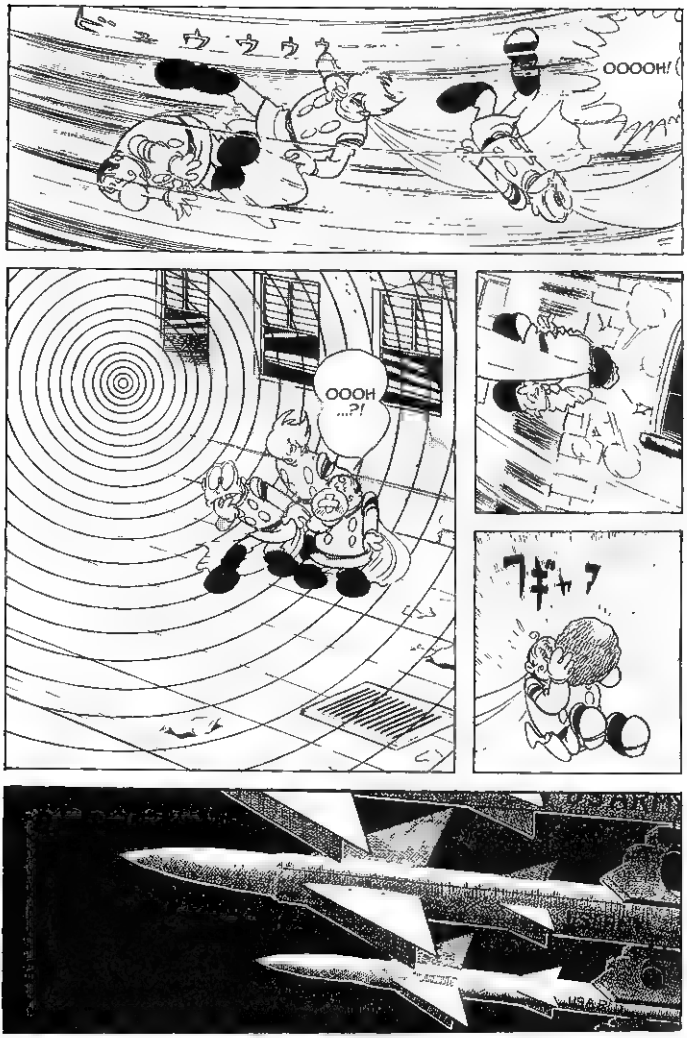
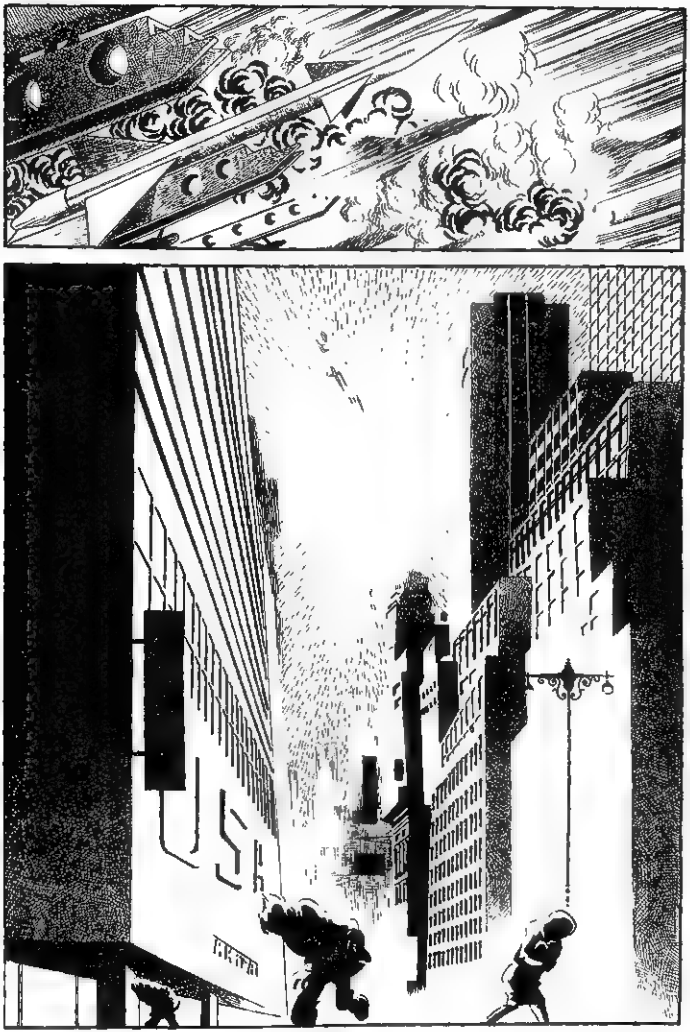



USA

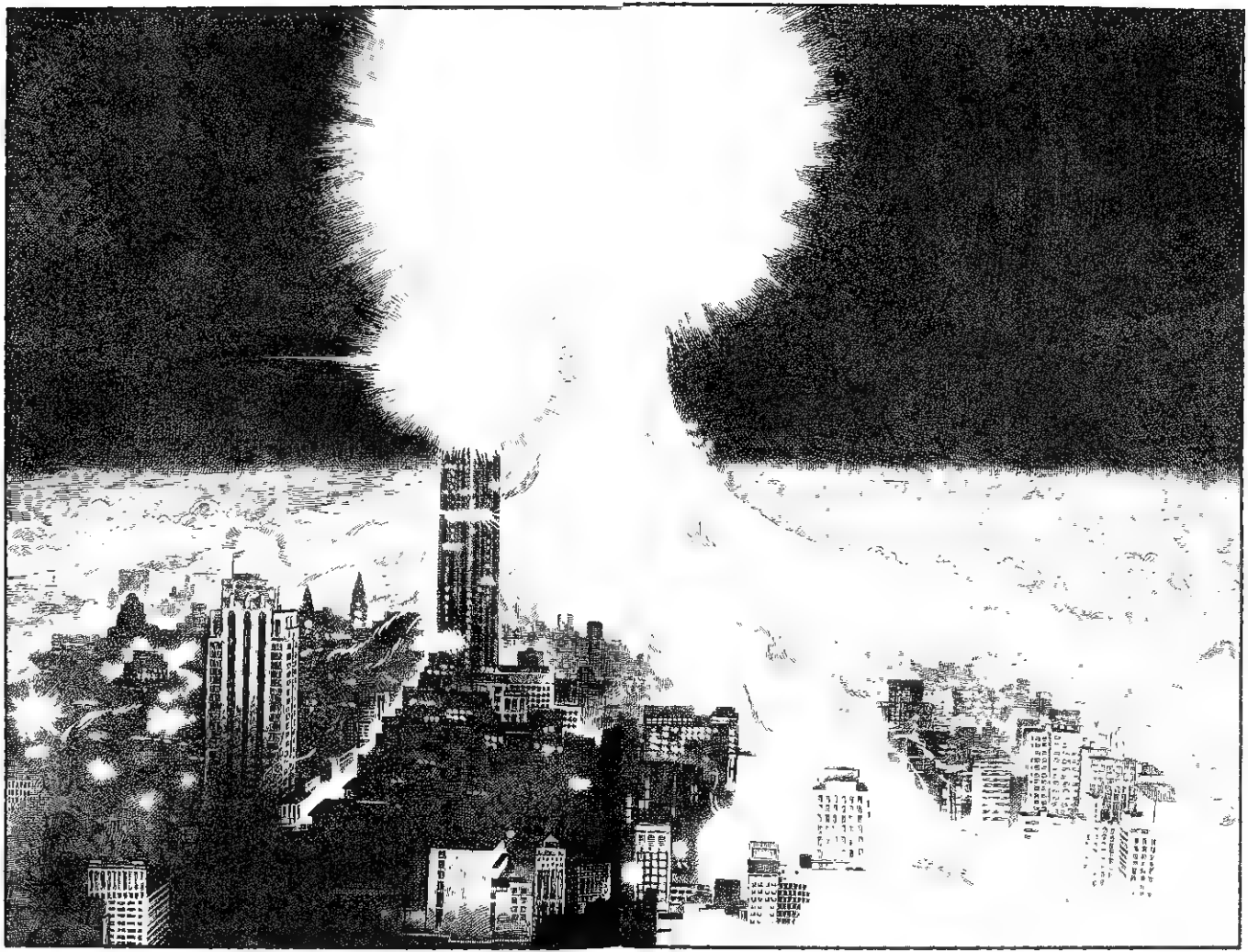
THIS IS... WORLD WAR II?!
B-BUT...
HOW ARE WE SEEING THIS?!
NEVER MIND, I CAN'T SEE!
ARE WE REALLY HERE?!
ヒュ――ン
HUH? WHAT IS THAT?!
IT'S A B-29!

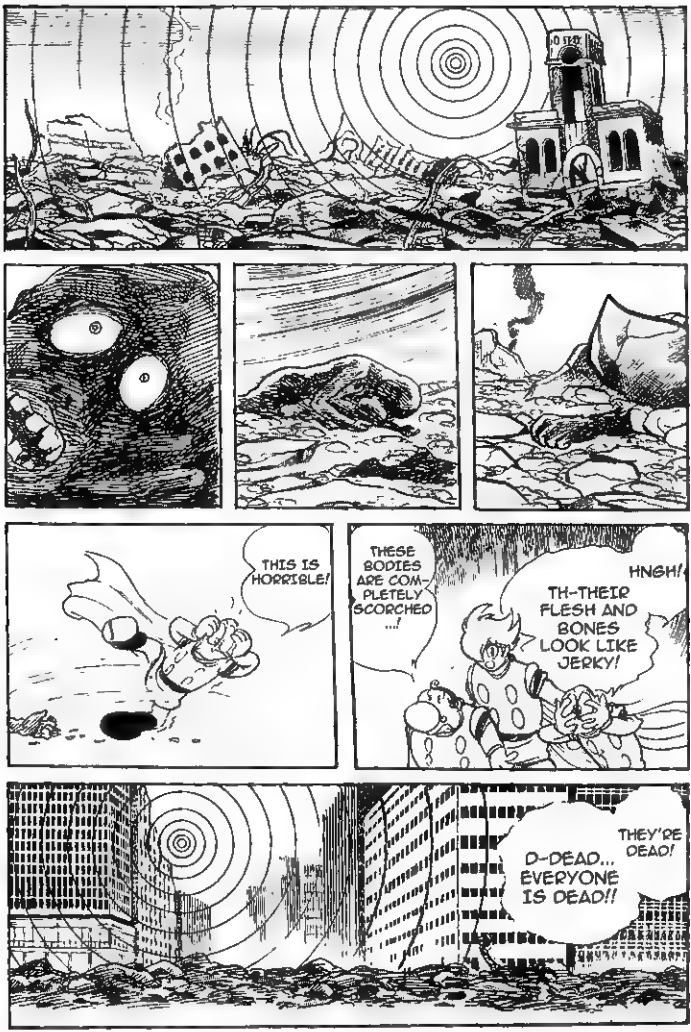

GEH! A NUCLEAR BOMB ?!
THIS IS... HIRO-SHIMA!

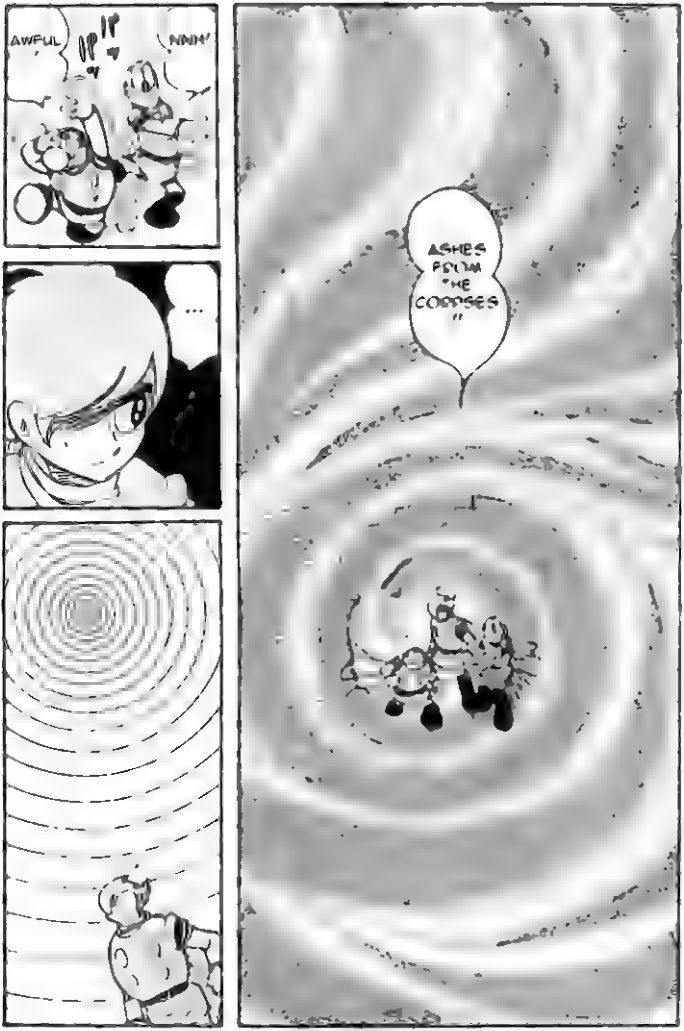

ウウウ
OOOOH!
OOOH ...?!
ﾌｷｬｰ

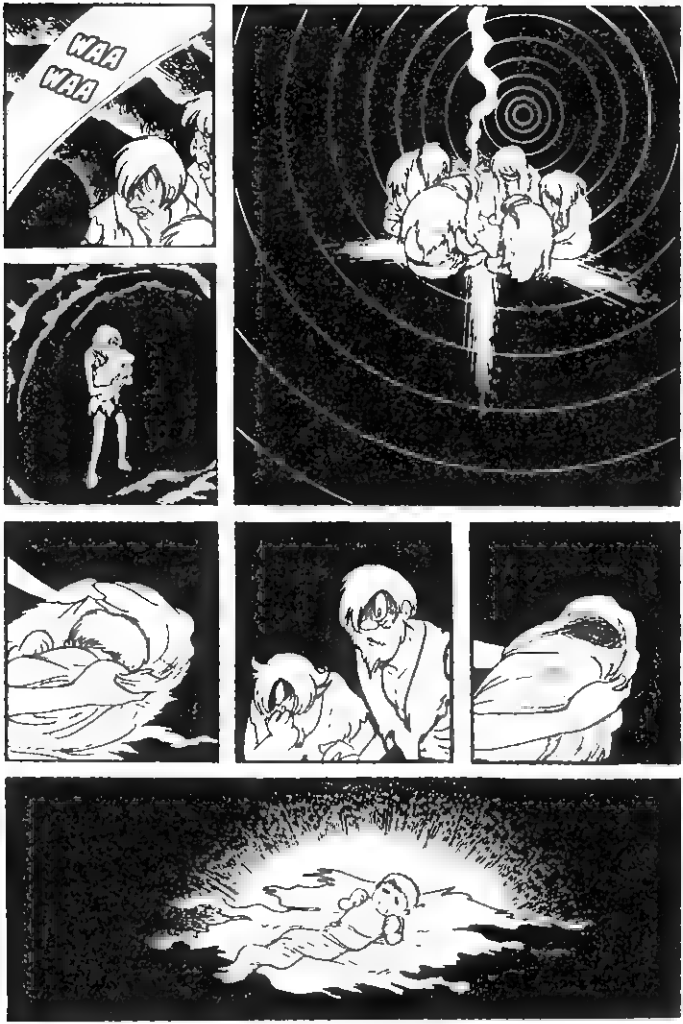


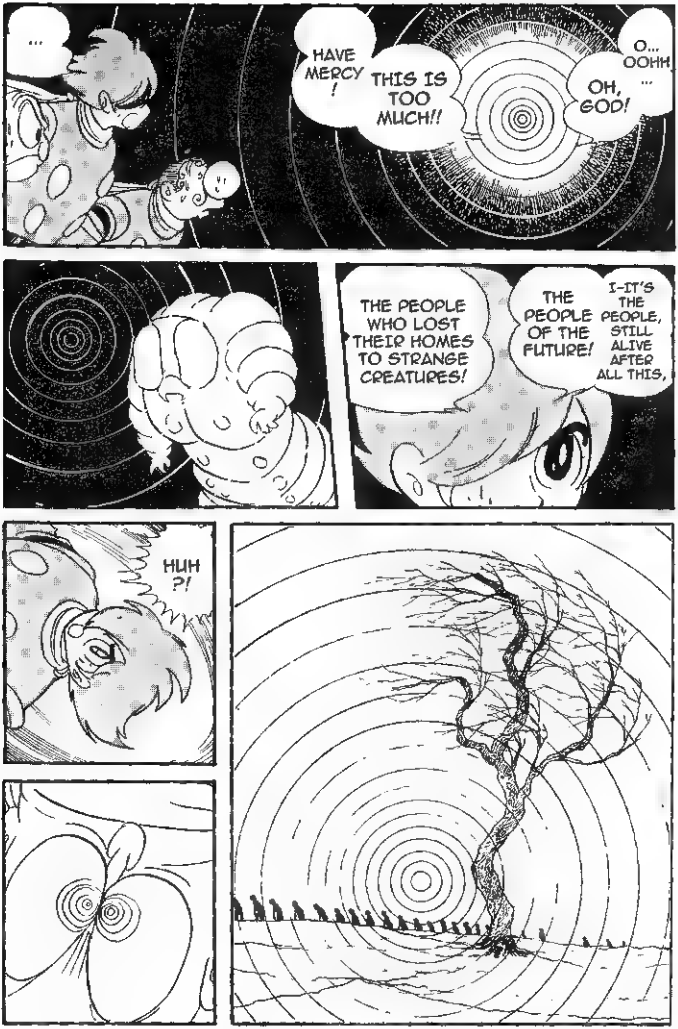
WHOA-WHOA-WHOA!
N-NOW WHERE ARE WE?
ARE WE STILL IN HIRO-SHIMA?
N-NO, THIS TIME... IT'S A MISSILE WAR...!
THIS MUST BE WORLD WAR III!

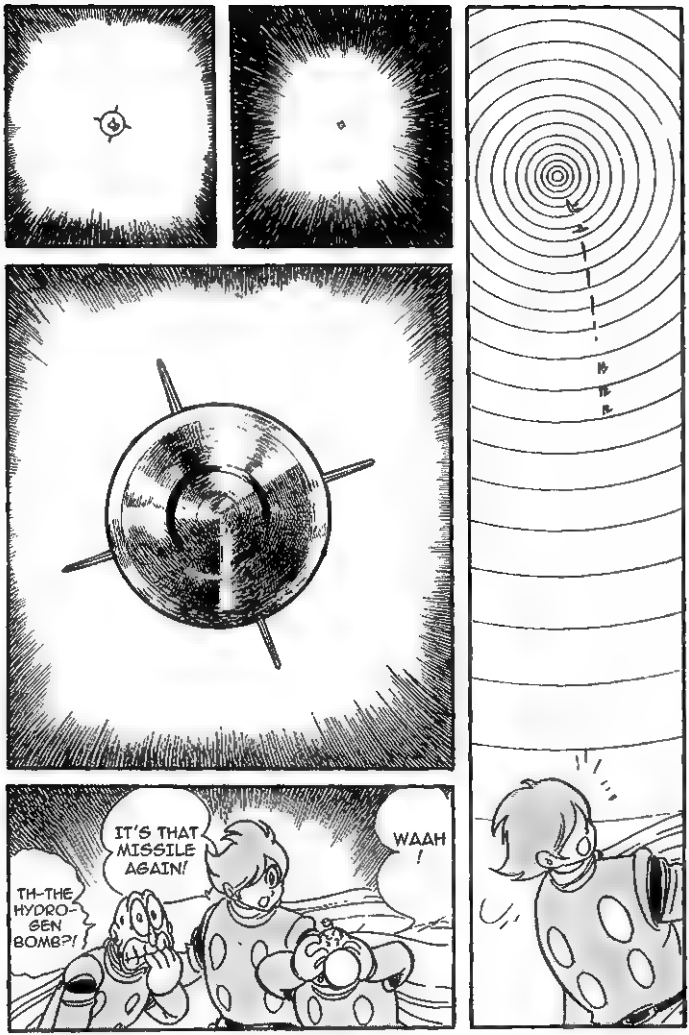


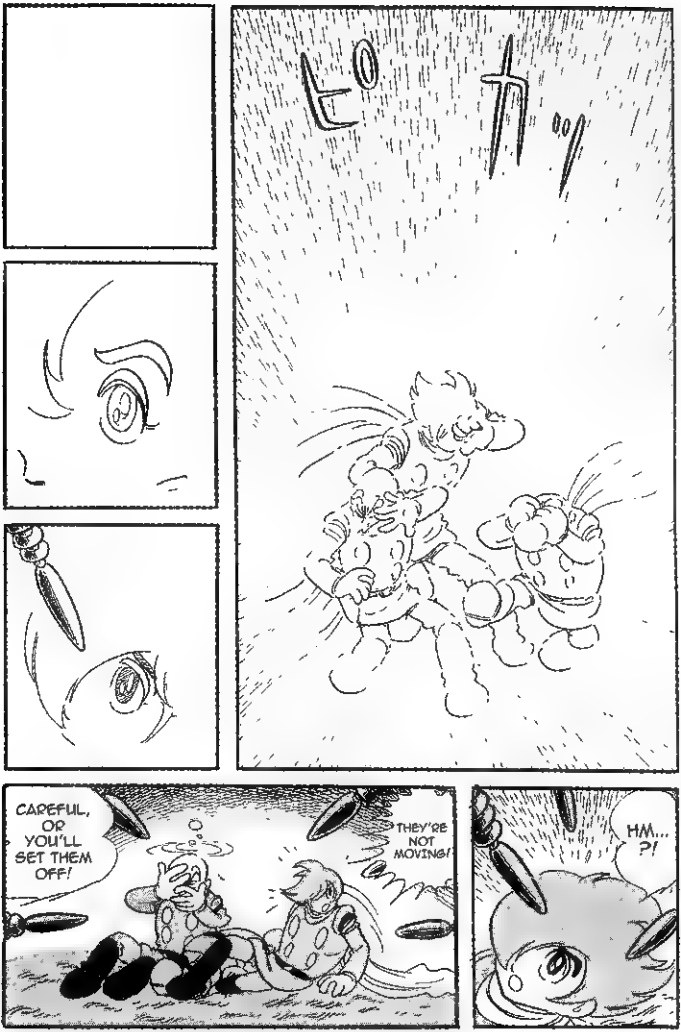

THIS IS HORRIBLE!
THESE BODIES ARE COMPLETELY SCORCHED ...!
HNGH!
TH-THEIR FLESH AND BONES LOOK LIKE JERKY!
THEY'RE DEAD!
D-DEAD... EVERYONE IS DEAD!!


AWFUL
NNN
...
ASHES FROM THE CORPSES

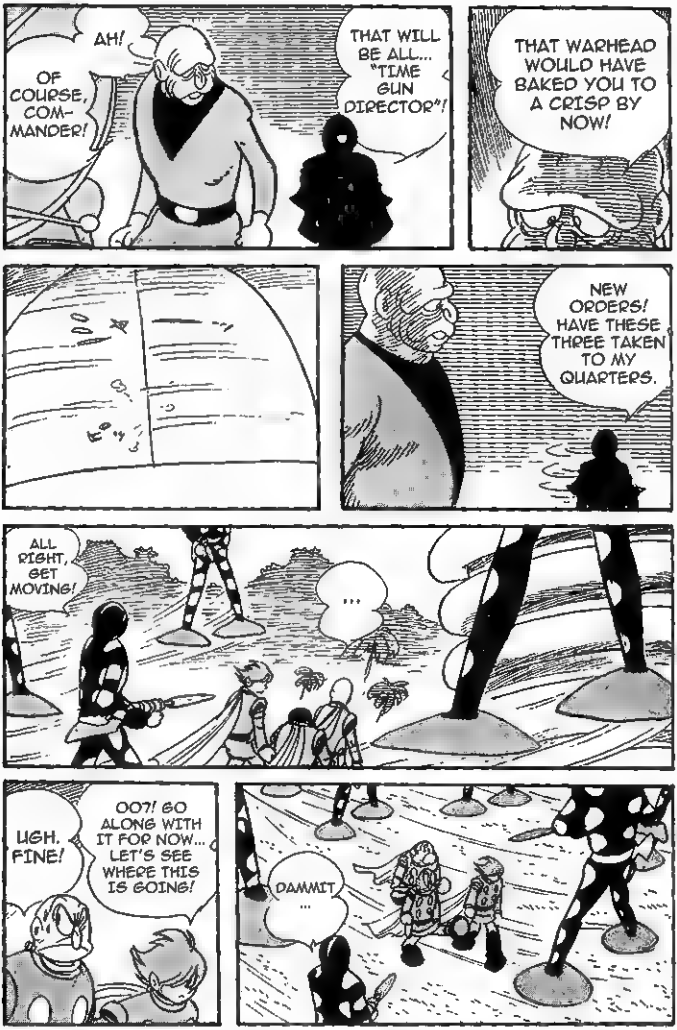

WAA
WAA

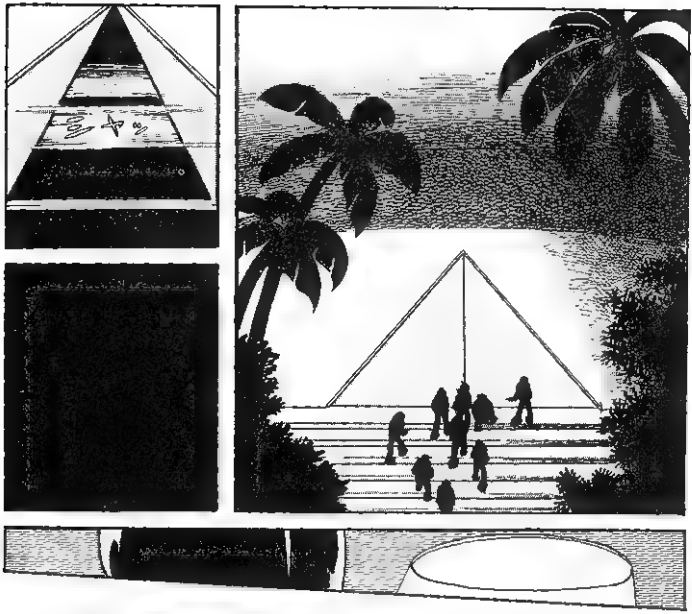

...
HAVE MERCY!
THIS IS TOO MUCH!!
O... OOHH ...
OH, GOD!
THE PEOPLE WHO LOST THEIR HOMES TO STRANGE CREATURES!
THE PEOPLE OF THE FUTURE!
I-IT'S THE PEOPLE, STILL ALIVE AFTER ALL THIS,
HUH ?!


WAAH!
IT'S THAT MISSILE AGAIN!
TH-THE HYDRO-GEN BOMB?!


CAREFUL, OR YOU'LL SET THEM OFF!
THEY'RE NOT MOVING!
HM... ?!

HAHA HA
GET UP.
...
HOW WAS IT? YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH THE TIME GUN...?!
WHAT YOU JUST OBSERVED WERE NOT MERE IMAGES!
THOSE WERE ACTUAL SOUNDS, PEOPLE, AND PLACES!
ALL WERE REAL!
HAHAHA YOU MAY NOT BELIEVE ME RIGHT AWAY...
YOU JUST HAD A HIGH-SPEED TRIP THROUGH TIME.
IF I HADN'T TAKEN SPECIAL CARE WITH THE TIME GUN THERE...
...


AH!
OF COURSE, COMMANDER!
THAT WILL BE ALL... "TIME GUN DIRECTOR"!
THAT WARHEAD WOULD HAVE BAKED YOU TO A CRISP BY NOW!
NEW ORDERS! HAVE THESE THREE TAKEN TO MY QUARTERS.
ALL RIGHT, GET MOVING!
...
UGH. FINE!
007! GO ALONG WITH IT FOR NOW... LET'S SEE WHERE THIS IS GOING!
DAMMIT
...



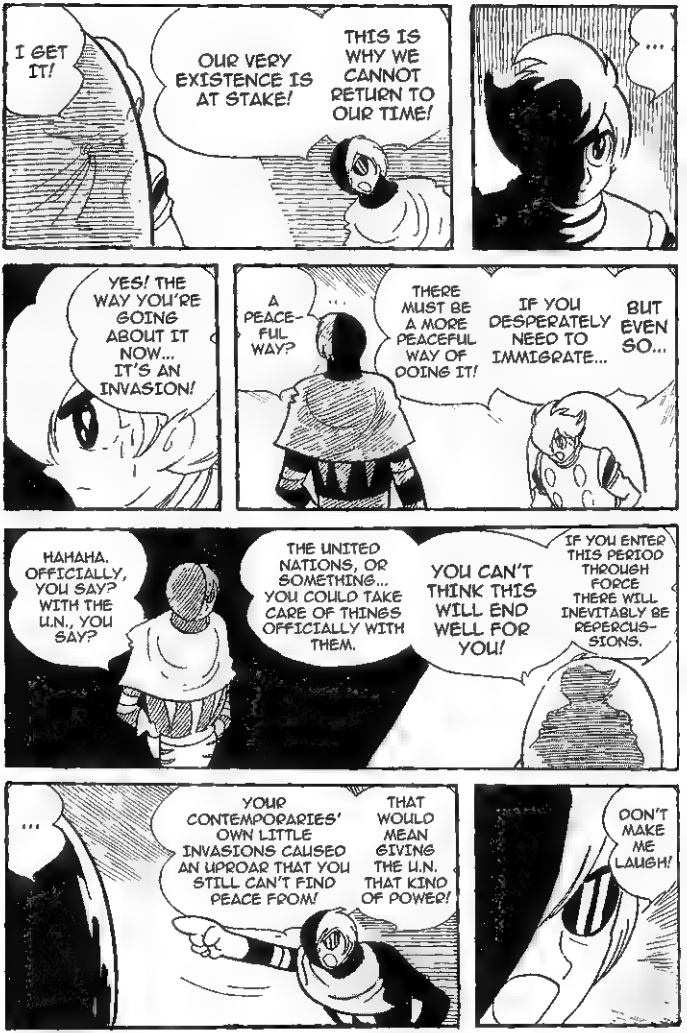
CHAPTER 7 QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

IN THAT CASE... WHY HAVEN'T YOU KILLED US YET?
DIFFERENCE IN POWER! SO THAT'S THE WAY IT IS, IS IT?
DISAPPOINTING, I'M SURE, BUT KEEPING IN MIND THE DIFFERENCE IN POWER BETWEEN US, I HOPE YOU WON'T TRY TO CHALLENGE THAT.
IT SEEMS YOU HAVE BECOME OUR PRISONERS, GENTLEMEN!
IN ALL OUR RESEARCH OF THIS PERIOD...
I'M FAR TOO INTERESTED IN YOU TO KILL YOU!
HA HA HA
IF YOU WANTED US DEAD, YOU COULD PROBABLY HAVE IT DONE IN AN INSTANT.
...
IF THAT'S REALLY THE CASE, HERE'S YOUR CHANCE!
YOU SAID YOU CAME HERE TO TALK.
BE-SIDES THAT...
THERE WAS NOTHING CONCERNING SOLDIERS LIKE YOU!

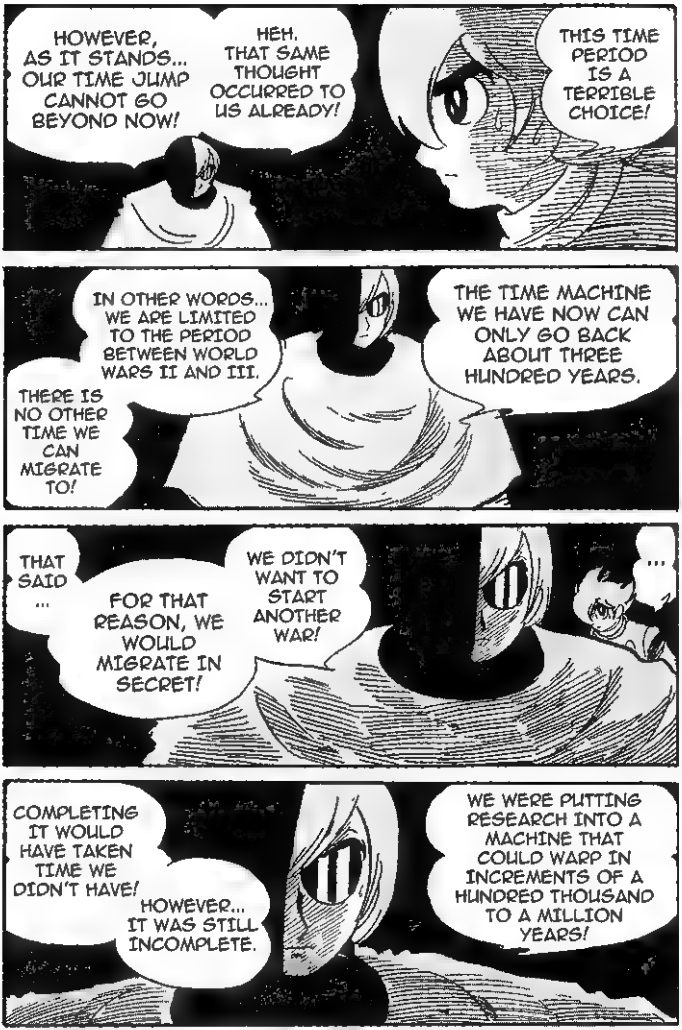
GRIN
ONCE I HAVE MY ANSWERS, I WILL HAVE YOU EXECUTED.
HMPH. DON'T CHEER JUST YET.
I'M GLAD YOU'LL HEAR US OUT, COMMANDER.
IT'S A LONG STORY, BUT...
AN ORGANIZATION CALLED BLACK GHOST PLANNED TO TAKE OVER THE WORLD. TO ACHIEVE THAT EVIL END, THEY CREATED US...
WHAT ARE YOU?
NOW THEN. ANSWER ME THIS ONE QUESTION:
CYBORGS!

WHOOSH
BLACK GHOST IS OUR SWORN ENEMY. THEY'RE THE ONES YOU SHOULD BE FIGHTING!
AND SO...

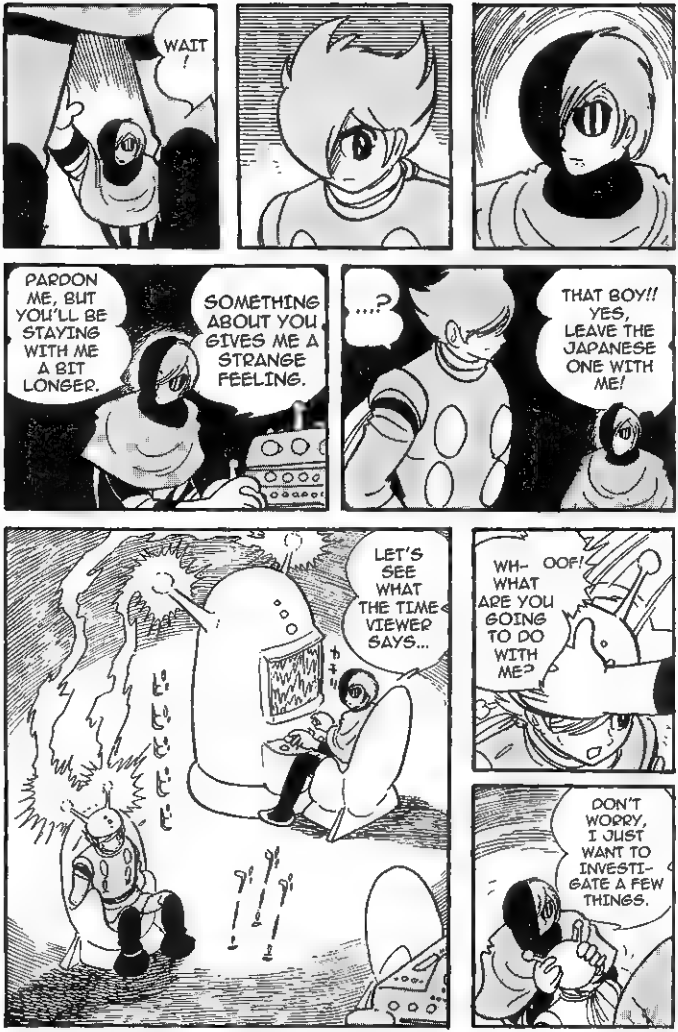
YOU SHOULDN'T HOLD THAT SAME GRUDGE AGAINST US!
WE DON'T WANT TO FIGHT YOU!
I SEE.
WHAT AN INTEREST-ING STORY.
IN FACT... WWIII MAY JUST TURN OUT TO BE THEIR DOING!
HM.
BESIDES, SUPPOSE YOU WERE ABLE TO STOP WWIII FROM HAPPENING...
WHAT DO YOU THINK WOULD HAPPEN?
YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHETHER OR NOT BLACK GHOST IS DEAD!
THAT'S RIGHT, I SAID IT WAS INTEREST-ING.
INTEREST-ING?!
HUH?!
WE WILL BE UTTERLY DESTROYED!
IN A DIFFERENT FUTURE, DIFFERENT PEOPLE WILL BE BORN!
OUR FUTURE WOULD BE COMPLETELY ERASED.


I GET IT!
OUR VERY EXISTENCE IS AT STAKE!
THIS IS WHY WE CANNOT RETURN TO OUR TIME!
...
YES! THE WAY YOU'RE GOING ABOUT IT NOW... IT'S AN INVASION!
A PEACE-FUL WAY?
...
THERE MUST BE A MORE PEACEFUL WAY OF DOING IT!
IF YOU DESPERATELY NEED TO IMMIGRATE...
BUT EVEN SO...
HAHAHA. OFFICIALLY, YOU SAY? WITH THE U.N., YOU SAY?
THE UNITED NATIONS, OR SOMETHING... YOU COULD TAKE CARE OF THINGS OFFICIALLY WITH THEM.
YOU CAN'T THINK THIS WILL END WELL FOR YOU!
IF YOU ENTER THIS PERIOD THROUGH FORCE THERE WILL INEVITABLY BE REPERCUS-SIONS.
...
YOUR CONTEMPORARIES' OWN LITTLE INVASIONS CAUSED AN UPROAR THAT YOU STILL CAN'T FIND PEACE FROM!
THAT WOULD MEAN GIVING THE U.N. THAT KIND OF POWER!
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH!

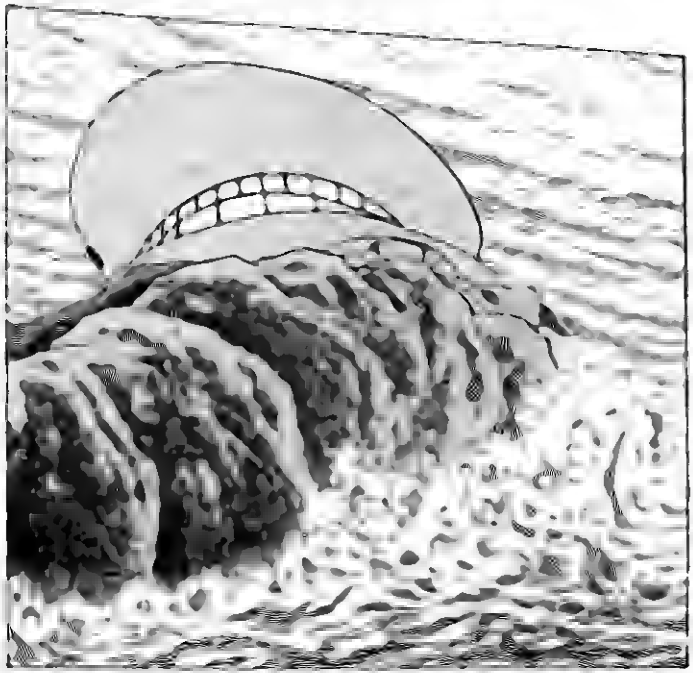
BUT... YOU SAY WE SHOULD DO THINGS OFFICIALLY, OFFER OUR VERY LIVES TO THEM?
EVEN IF THEY'RE SMALL, WHETHER OR NOT ANYONE CROSSES OVER THEM IS GROUNDS FOR WAR!
YOU PEOPLE, WITH YOUR BORDERS AND YOUR LINES AND YOUR JURISDICTIONS,
AM I WRONG?!
LET'S SEE WHAT WOULD HAPPEN!
SUPPOSE WE DID DO THAT!
YOU'RE THE EXCEPTION TO THE RULE!
HOWEVER... YOU SAY YOU ALL THREW AWAY YOUR PREJUDICES AND BECAME FRIENDS?!
AND WE'RE FROM ANOTHER TIME!
SLIGHT DIFFERENCES IN SKIN COLOR... EVEN DIFFERENCES IN LANGUAGE ARE UNFORGIVABLE TO YOUR PEOPLE!
A TIME WHEN YOU WOULD RARELY BRUSH SHOULDERS WITH OTHER HUMANS, AND COULD LIVE IN PEACE. WHY NOT GO TO SUCH A TIME?
YOU COULD GO SOMEWHERE LONG AGO... TO A TIME WHEN PEOPLE DIDN'T CAUSE SO MUCH STRIFE.
WHY IMMIGRATE TO THIS ERA AT ALL?
IF... IF THAT'S HOW YOU FEEL...

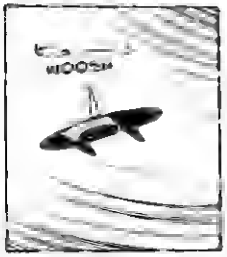

HOWEVER, AS IT STANDS... OUR TIME JUMP CANNOT GO BEYOND NOW!
HEH. THAT SAME THOUGHT OCCURRED TO US ALREADY!
THIS TIME PERIOD IS A TERRIBLE CHOICE!
IN OTHER WORDS... WE ARE LIMITED TO THE PERIOD BETWEEN WORLD WARS II AND III.
THERE IS NO OTHER TIME WE CAN MIGRATE TO!
THE TIME MACHINE WE HAVE NOW CAN ONLY GO BACK ABOUT THREE HUNDRED YEARS.
THAT SAID ...
FOR THAT REASON, WE WOULD MIGRATE IN SECRET!
WE DIDN'T WANT TO START ANOTHER WAR!
...
COMPLETING IT WOULD HAVE TAKEN TIME WE DIDN'T HAVE!
HOWEVER... IT WAS STILL INCOMPLETE.
WE WERE PUTTING RESEARCH INTO A MACHINE THAT COULD WARP IN INCREMENTS OF A HUNDRED THOUSAND TO A MILLION YEARS!

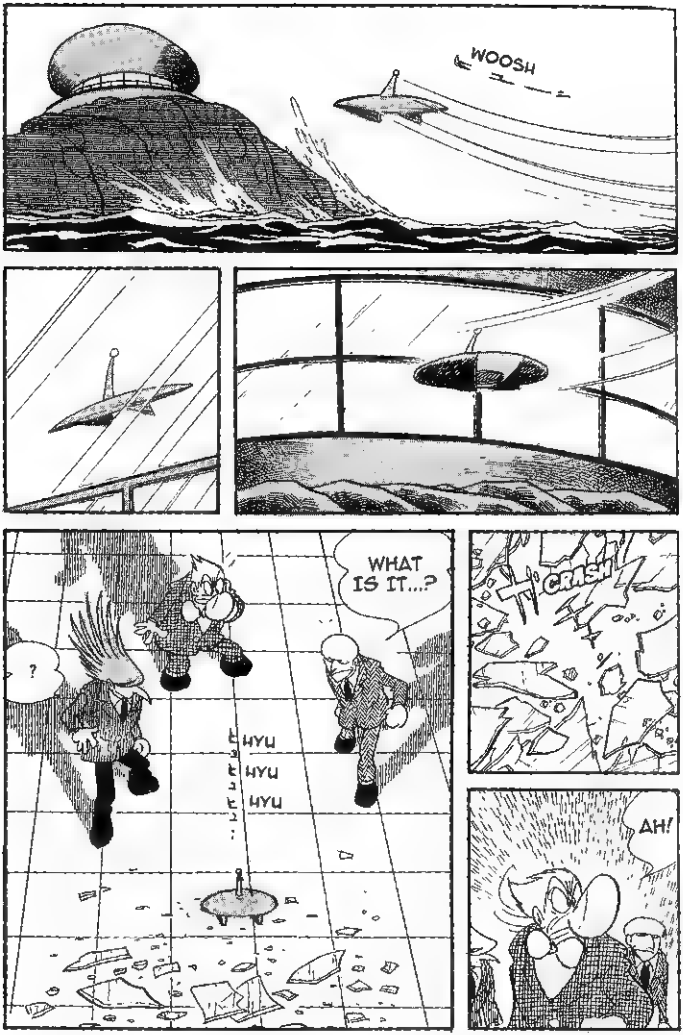
WITH THAT, I BELIEVE OUR CONVERSATION IS AT AN END.
I SEE THAT YOU UNDERSTAND.
...
IF WE'D WAITED, WE COULD HAVE BEEN DESTROYED!
YOU THERE!
AH, I'LL DECIDE HOW TO DISPOSE OF YOU LATER.
WHICH MEANS YOU HAVE NO MORE USE OF US?
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO TO US?
YES... WHAT INDEED?
"DESTROY ANYTHING THAT GETS IN THE WAY" IS OUR MOTTO, AFTER ALL.
YES SIR!
...
THIS WAY!
YES SIR!
AND DON'T LET THEM ESCAPE!
ESCORT THESE GENTLEMEN OUT!

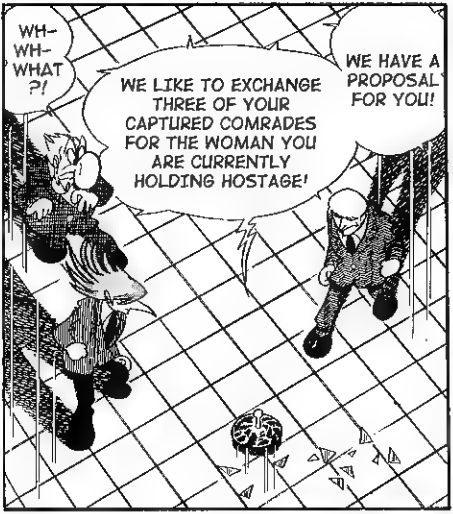

WAIT!
PARDON ME, BUT YOU'LL BE STAYING WITH ME A BIT LONGER.
SOMETHING ABOUT YOU GIVES ME A STRANGE FEELING.
...?
THAT BOY!! YES, LEAVE THE JAPANESE ONE WITH ME!
LET'S SEE WHAT THE TIME VIEWER SAYS...
WH- OOF! WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH ME?
DON'T WORRY, I JUST WANT TO INVESTI-GATE A FEW THINGS.

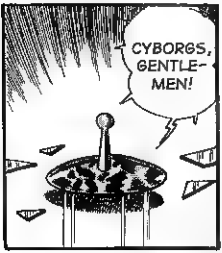
CHAPTER 8 EXCHANGING HOSTAGES

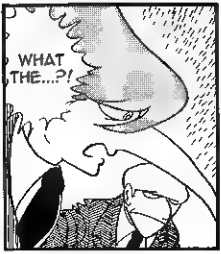




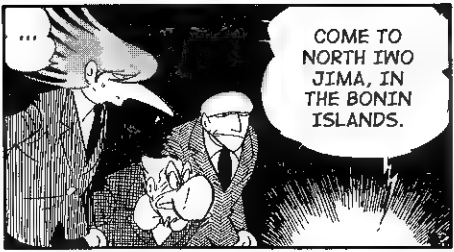

WOOSH
WHAT IS IT...?
?
HYU
HYU
HYU
CRASH!
AH!

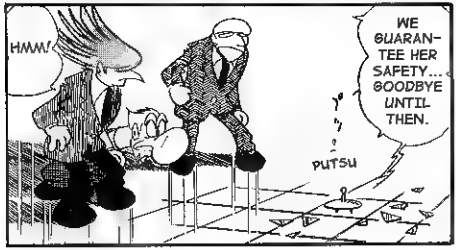

WH-WH-WHAT?!
WE LIKE TO EXCHANGE THREE OF YOUR CAPTURED COMRADES FOR THE WOMAN YOU ARE CURRENTLY HOLDING HOSTAGE!
WE HAVE A PROPOSAL FOR YOU!


CYBORGS, GENTLEMEN!

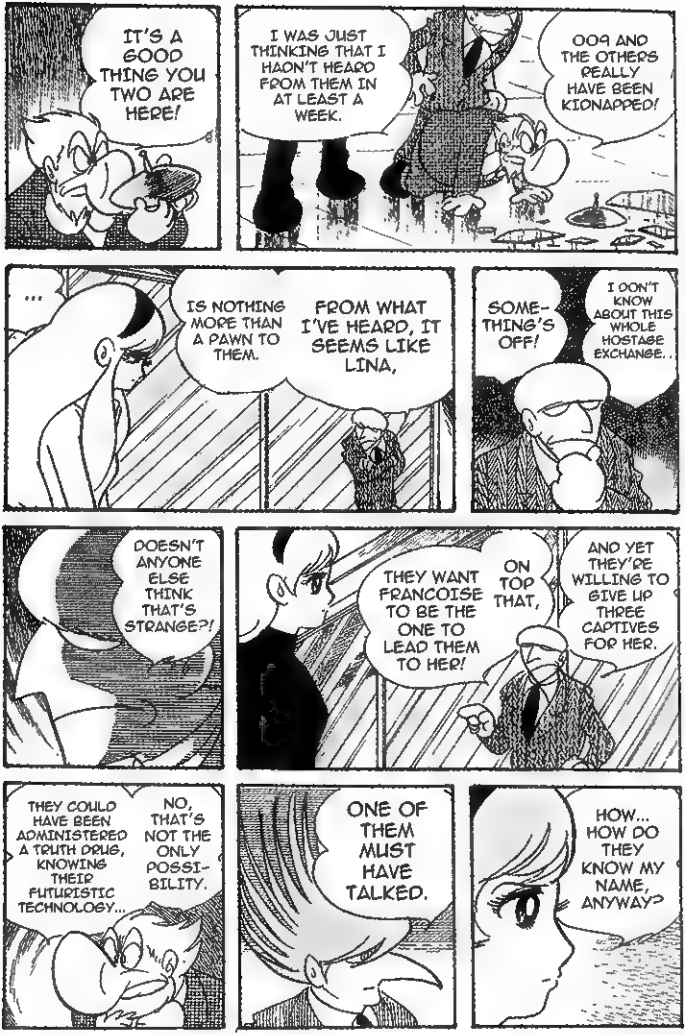

WHAT THE...?!

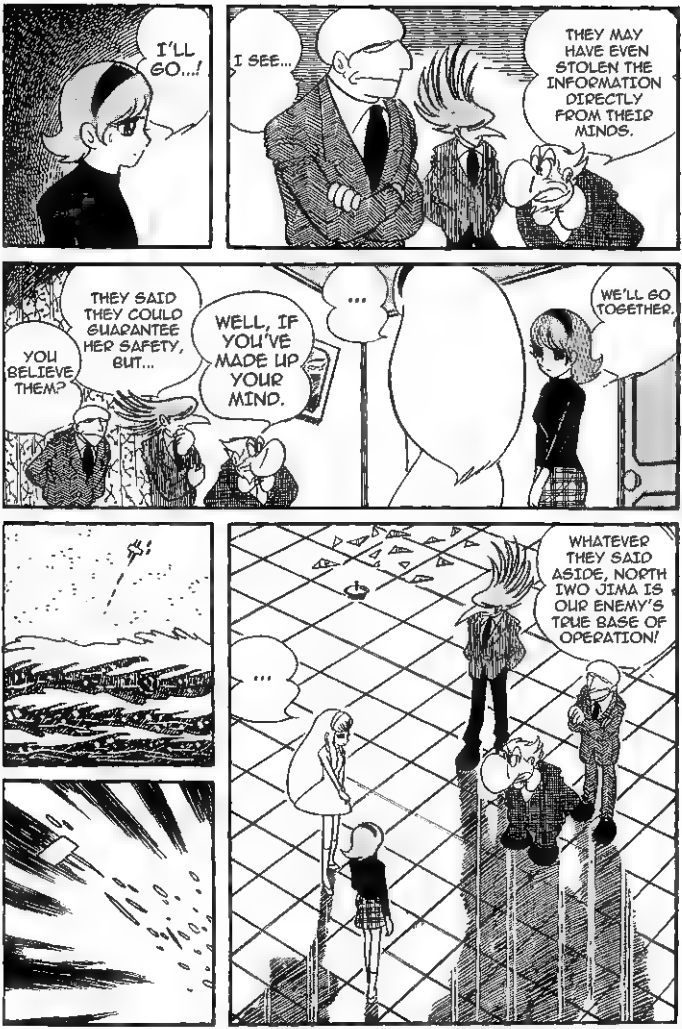
FURTHERMORE. WHEN THE HOSTAGES ARE EXCHANGED, THERE MUST BE ONE WITNESS.

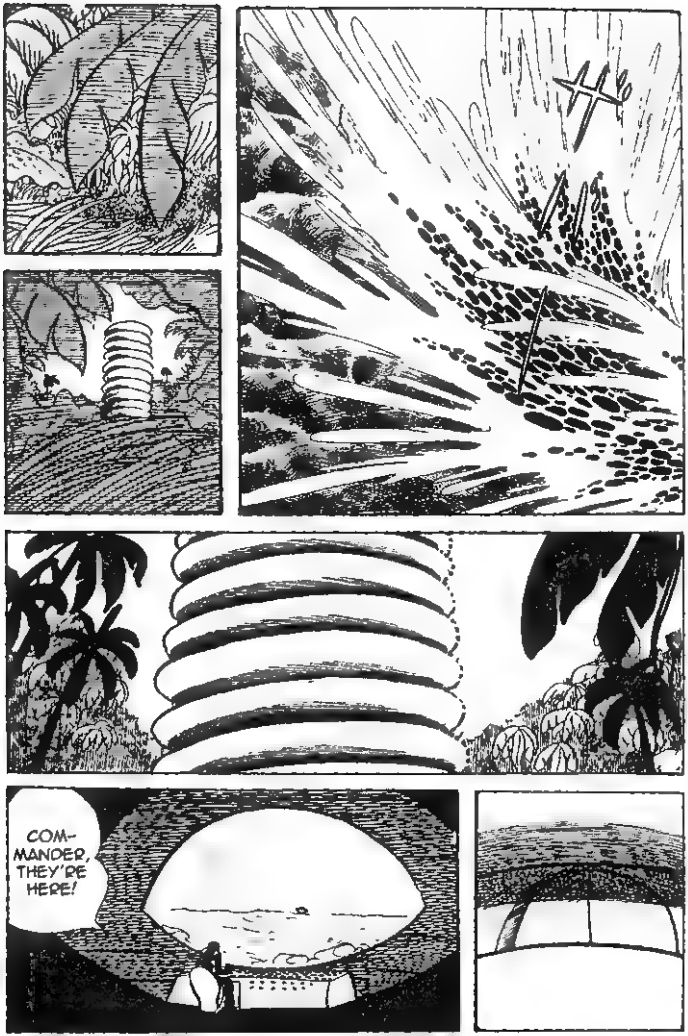

...
COME TO NORTH IWO JIMA, IN THE BONIN ISLANDS.

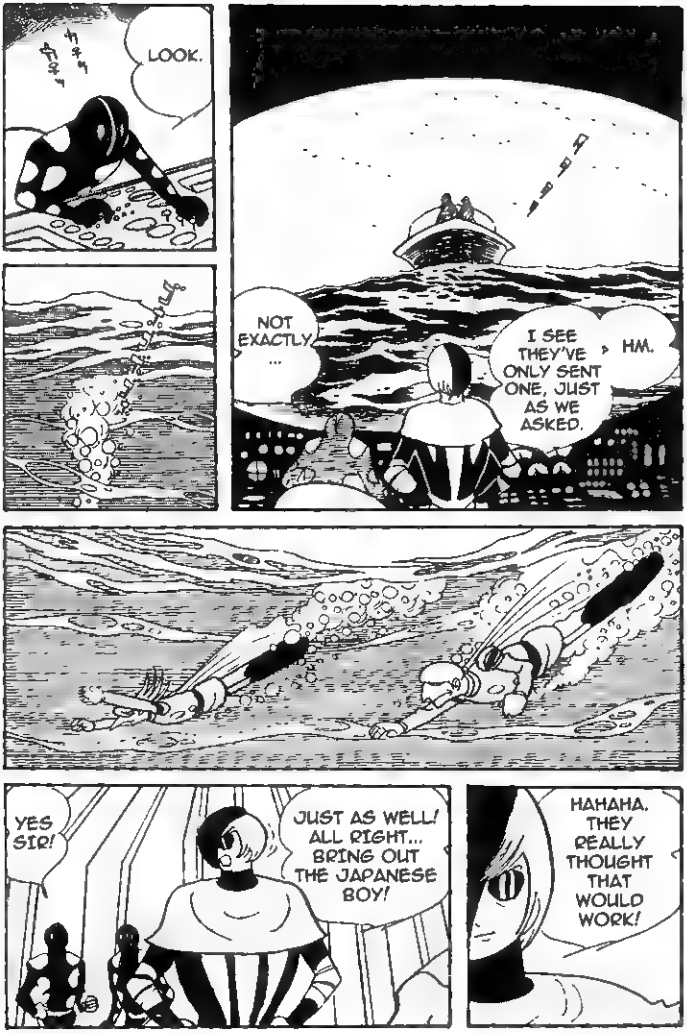

HMM/
WE GUARANTEE HER SAFETY... GOODBYE UNTIL THEN.
PUTSU

WE REQUEST THAT WITNESS BE MISS FRANCOISE!

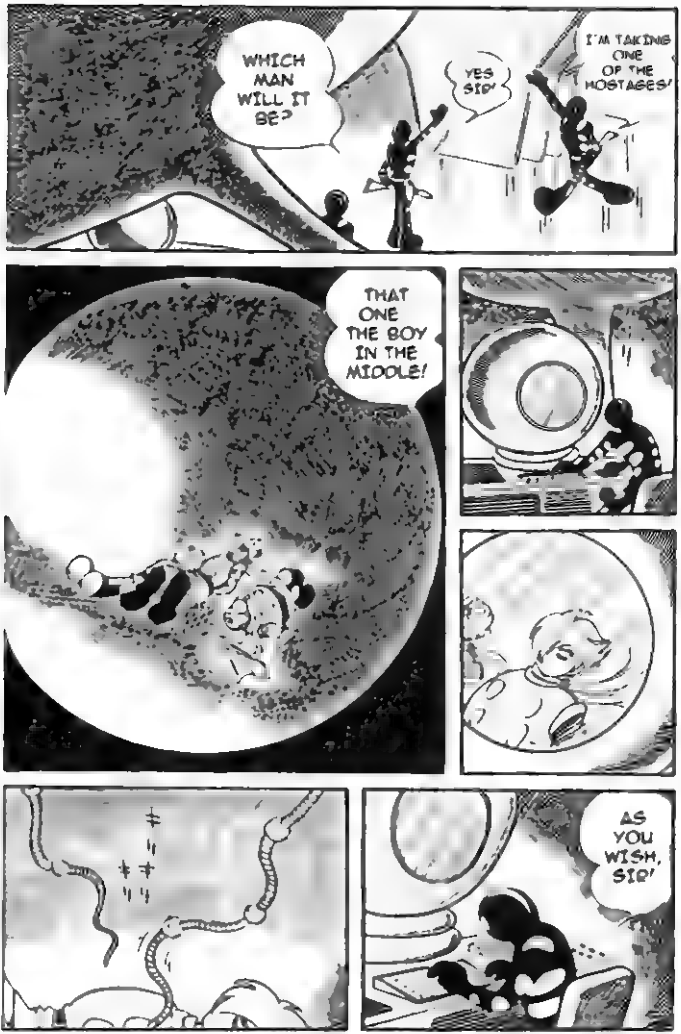

IT'S A GOOD THING YOU TWO ARE HERE!
I WAS JUST THINKING THAT I HADN'T HEARD FROM THEM IN AT LEAST A WEEK.
009 AND THE OTHERS REALLY HAVE BEEN KIDNAPPED!
...
IS NOTHING MORE THAN A PAWN TO THEM.
FROM WHAT I'VE HEARD, IT SEEMS LIKE LINA,
SOME-THING'S OFF!
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THIS WHOLE HOSTAGE EXCHANGE...
DOESN'T ANYONE ELSE THINK THAT'S STRANGE?!
THEY WANT FRANCOISE TO BE THE ONE TO LEAD THEM TO HER!
ON TOP THAT,
AND YET THEY'RE WILLING TO GIVE UP THREE CAPTIVES FOR HER.
THEY COULD HAVE BEEN ADMINISTERED A TRUTH DRUG, KNOWING THEIR FUTURISTIC TECHNOLOGY...
NO, THAT'S NOT THE ONLY POSSI-BILITY.
ONE OF THEM MUST HAVE TALKED.
HOW... HOW DO THEY KNOW MY NAME, ANYWAY?


I'LL GO...!
I SEE...
THEY MAY HAVE EVEN STOLEN THE INFORMATION DIRECTLY FROM THEIR MINDS.
YOU BELIEVE THEM?
THEY SAID THEY COULD GUARANTEE HER SAFETY, BUT...
WELL, IF YOU'VE MADE UP YOUR MIND.
...
WE'LL GO TOGETHER.
WHATEVER THEY SAID ASIDE, NORTH IWO JIMA IS OUR ENEMY'S TRUE BASE OF OPERATION!
...


COM-
MANDER,
THEY'RE
HERE!


LOOK.
I SEE THEY'VE ONLY SENT ONE, JUST AS WE ASKED.
HM.
NOT EXACTLY. ...
YES SIR!
JUST AS WELL! ALL RIGHT... BRING OUT THE JAPANESE BOY!
HAHAHA. THEY REALLY THOUGHT THAT WOULD WORK!

LETTING SOMEONE GO AFTER THEY KNOW ABOUT OUR IMMIGRATION...
B-BUT, BUT!
AHH... BUT OF COURSE I DO!
SURELY YOU DON'T INTEND TO CARRY OUT THE EXCHANGE?
BUT... YOUR EXCELLENCY!
I DON'T WISH!
YOU COULD KILL HER ALONG WITH THEM IF YOU WISHED.
AND ON TOP OF THAT... THAT WOMAN IS NOTHING MORE THAN A MERE SPY.
ISN'T THAT DANGEROUS?!
IF WE KEEP THE OTHERS HOSTAGE... HE'LL KEEP HIS MOUTH SHUT!
BE-SIDES ...
RIGHT NOW.. I DON'T WANT TO LOSE EVEN ONE OF OUR COMPATRIOTS.
ONLY ONE OF THEM WILL BE GOING HOME!


WHICH MAN WILL IT BE?
YES SIR!
I'M TAKING ONE OF THE HOSTAGES!
THAT ONE THE BOY IN THE MIDDLE!
AS YOU WISH, SIR!

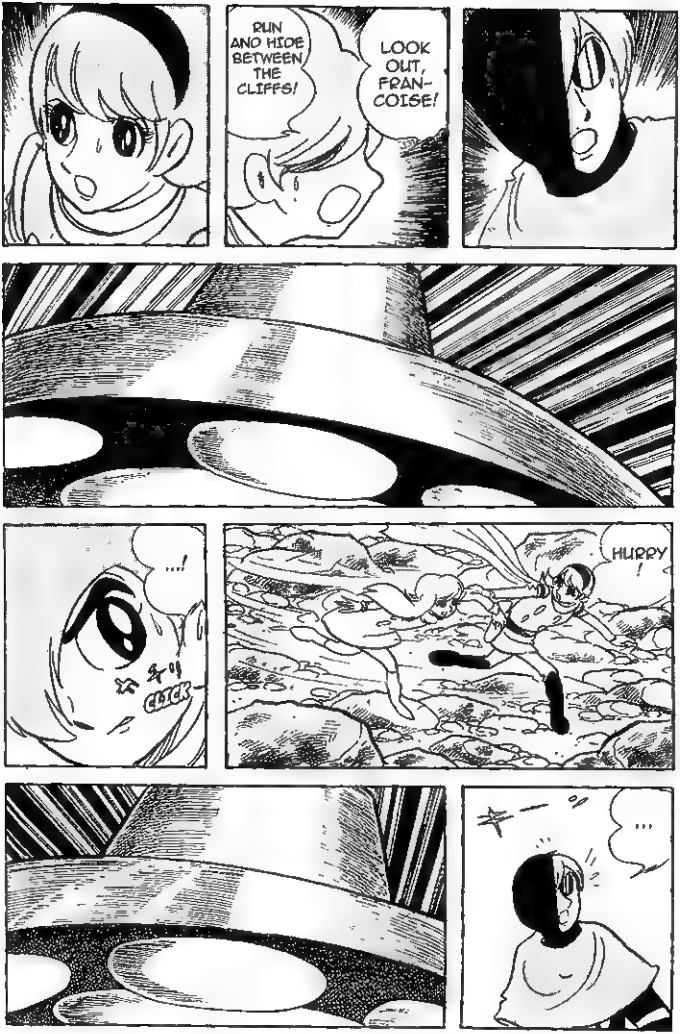
YES SIR!
WAKE HIM UP.
OKAY.
HN...
ALL RIGHT, NOW STAND HIM UP.
...

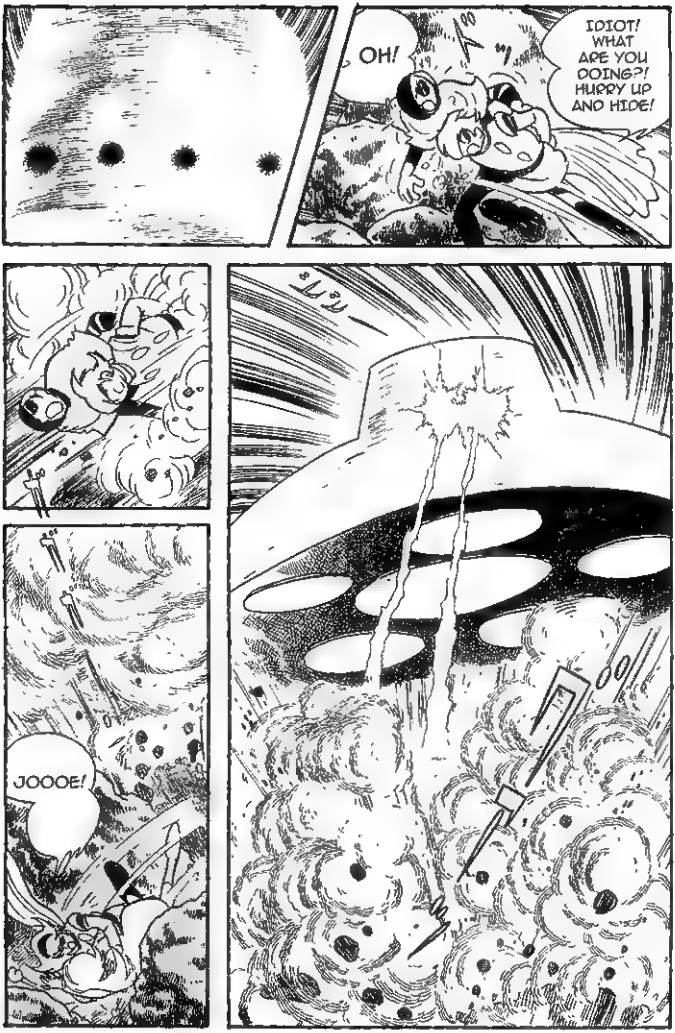
SO IT'S JUST ME AGAIN... WHAT KIND OF INSPEC-TION WILL IT BE THIS TIME?
SHUT UP AND GET MOVING!
THERE ARE ALL KINDS OF WAYS I COULD ESCAPE LIKE THIS.
YOU SHOULD HAVE LET ME SLEEP... THEY WERE RIGHT TO TELL YOU TO KEEP ME LOCKED UP
HEY, WHY ARE YOU ONLY SENDING ME BACK?!
OOGH
YOUR COMRADES HAVE COME TO EXCHANGE HOSTAGES
YOU'RE GOING HOME
WHAT?
TAKE HIM OUTSIDE
NEVER MIND
F-FORGIVE ME HE ASKED ME I JUST
YOU BABBLING IDIOT!
YOU TOLD HIM?!!

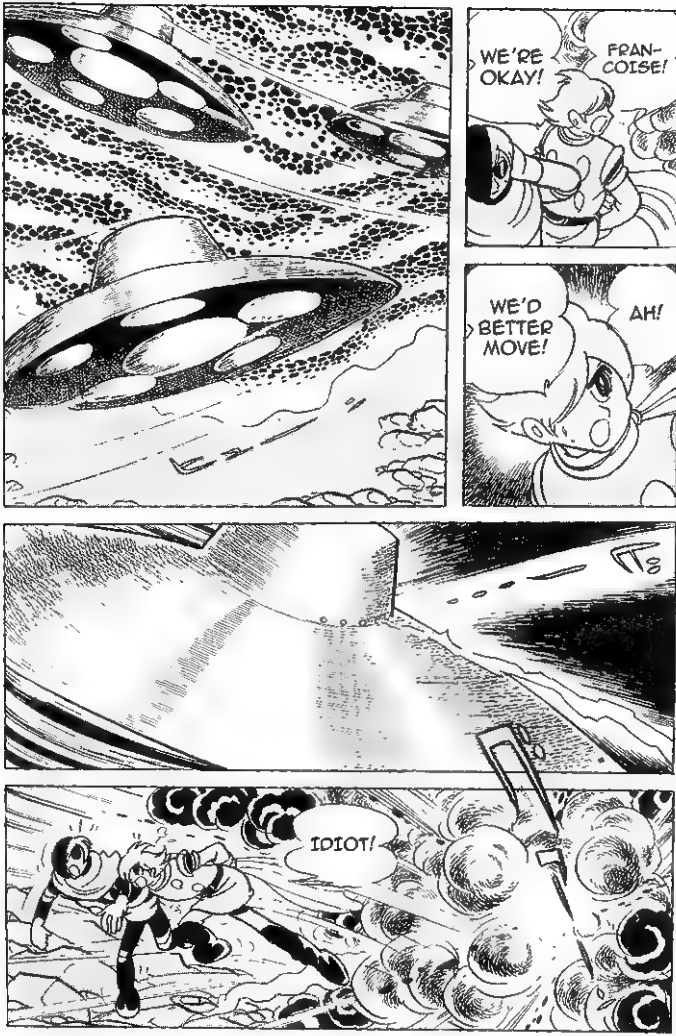
BUT COM-MANDER...
I'LL TAKE OVER FROM HERE.
ALL RIGHT... YOU CAN GO BACK IN NOW.
...
NOW, LET'S GO.
...
DON'T MAKE ANY SUDDEN MOVEMENTS UNLESS I TELL YOU TO.
LISTEN UP!

WHO'S BRINGING LINA?
YOU'LL UNDERSTAND SOON ENOUGH!
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?
WAIT!
C-COMMANDER!
JOE!
MADEMOISELLE FRANCOISE!
HM?
AH!
FRANCOISE!
THE ONLY ONE YOU BROUGHT?
WHY IS JOE...

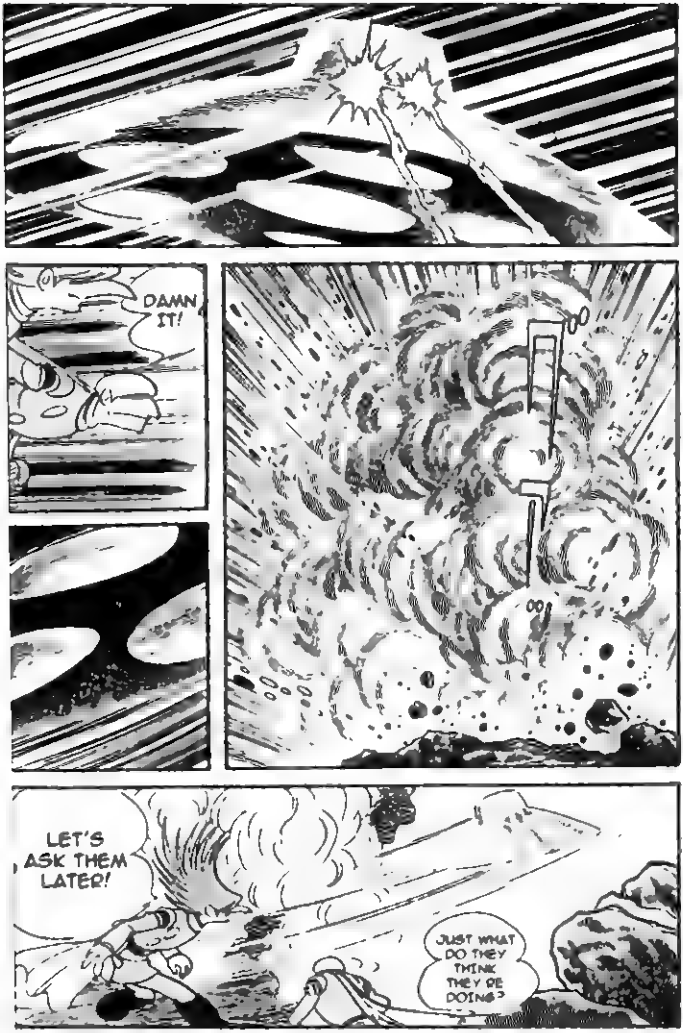
FINALLY, THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO TELL YOU
BESIDES IF THE NUMBER OF HOSTAGES IS EQUAL YOU CAN'T SAY IT'S UNFAIR
IT'S NECESSARY WE KEEP SOME HOSTAGES TO ENSURE YOU KEEP YOUR LIPS SEALED
IT WAS QUITE RISKY ASKING THEM TO SEND YOU OUT ALONE
AH, YES! I'M AFRAID I'VE MISLED YOU.
WHAT ?!
IT WAS A TRAP!
YOU COWARD!

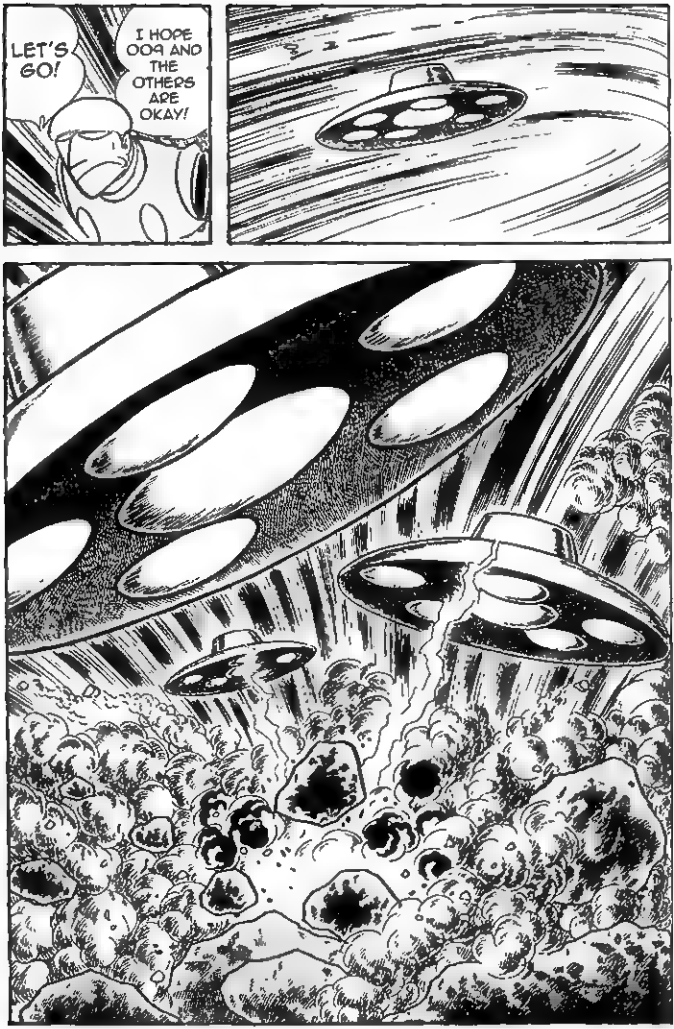

RUN AND HIDE BETWEEN THE CLIFFS!
LOOK OUT, FRAN-COISE!
...!
CHICK
HURRY!
...

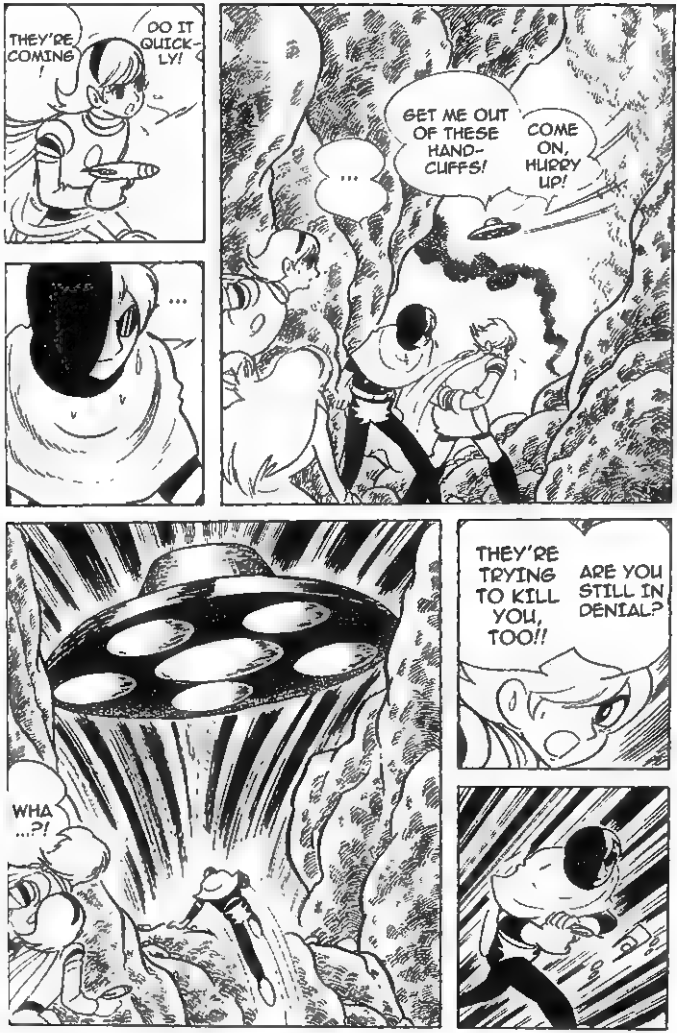

OH!
IDIOT! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! HURRY UP AND HIDE!
JOOOE!

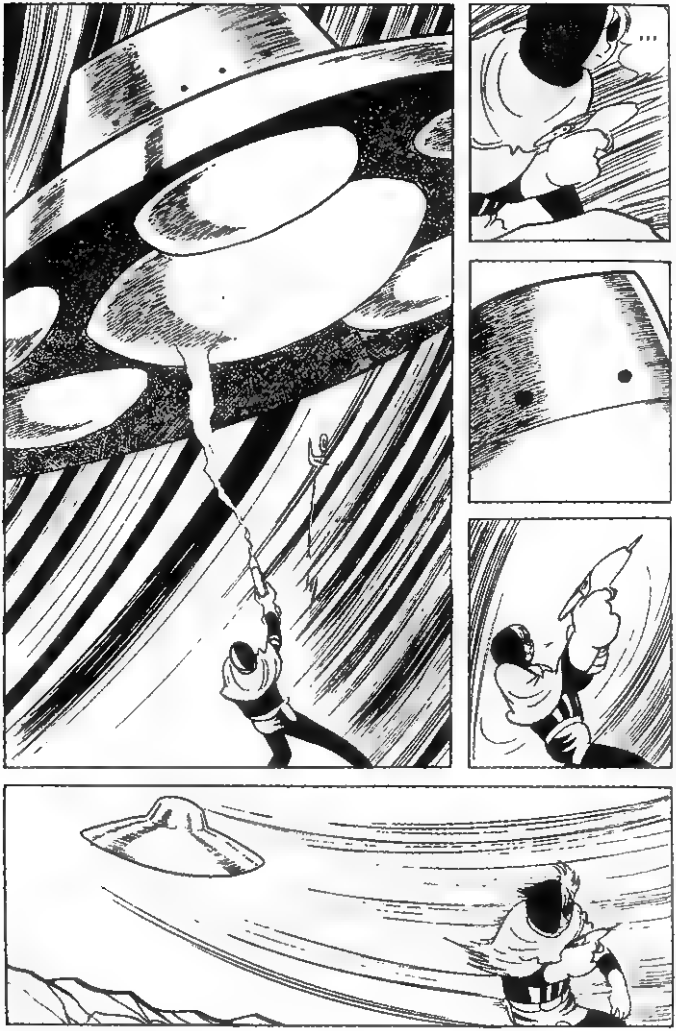

WE'RE OKAY!
FRAN-COISE!
WE'D BETTER MOVE!
AH!
IDIOT!

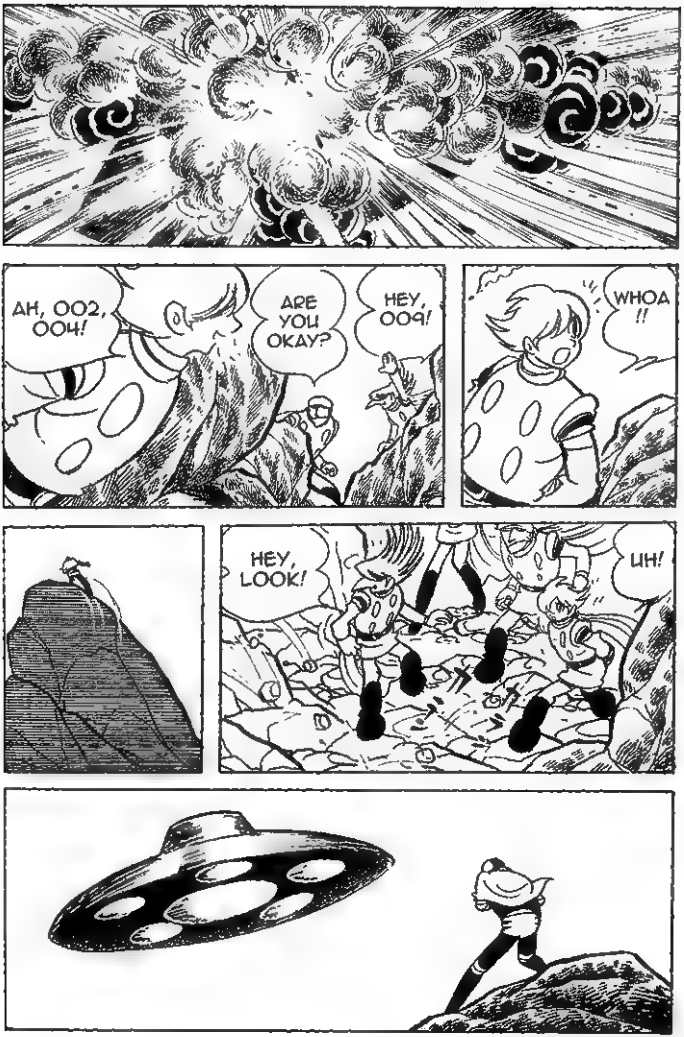
I... I NEVER GAVE THESE ORDERS!
TH- THIS IS WRONG...
SOME- THING WENT WRONG!
WHY ARE YOU BEING SO CARELESS? DO YOU WANT TO DIE?!
IF WE STAY HERE, WE'LL ALL BE KILLED!
FOR NOW, WE NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE.
WELL, IT'S HAPPENING ANYWAY! YOU CAN FIGURE OUT WHAT DID OR DIDN'T GO WRONG LATER!
OOH!
I MEAN, ARE YOU SURE YOU DIDN'T GIVE ANY ORDERS TO OFF YOURSELF TODAY?
DO YOU THINK ?
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS... I DIDN'T EXPECT THIS TO HAPPEN...
...
IT'S COMING BACK!

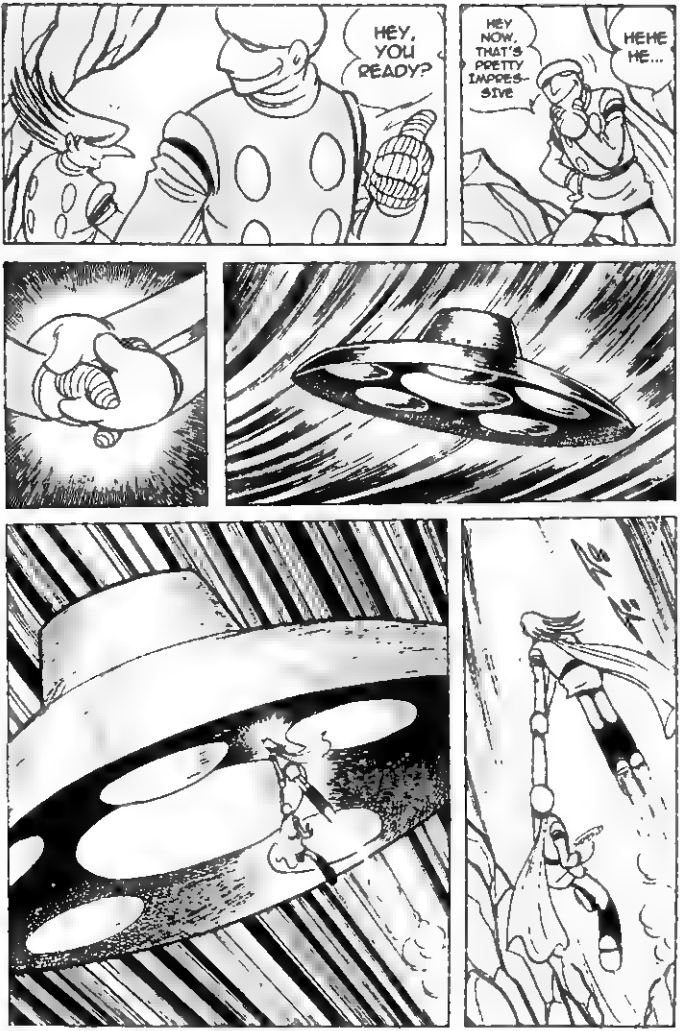

DAMN IT!
LET'S ASK THEM LATER!
JUST WHAT DO THEY THINK THEY'RE DOING?

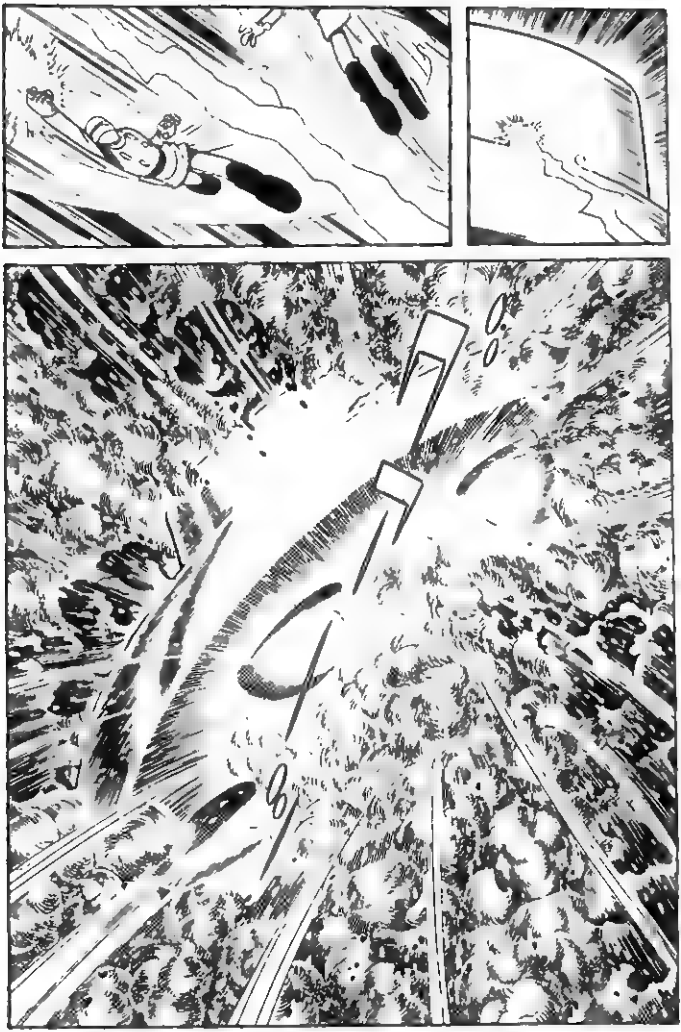

LET'S GO!
I HOPE 009 AND THE OTHERS ARE OKAY!


THEY'RE COMING!
DO IT QUICKLY!
...
GET ME OUT OF THESE HANDCUFFS!
COME ON, HURRY UP!
WHA...?!
THEY'RE TRYING TO KILL YOU, TOO!!
ARE YOU STILL IN DENIAL?



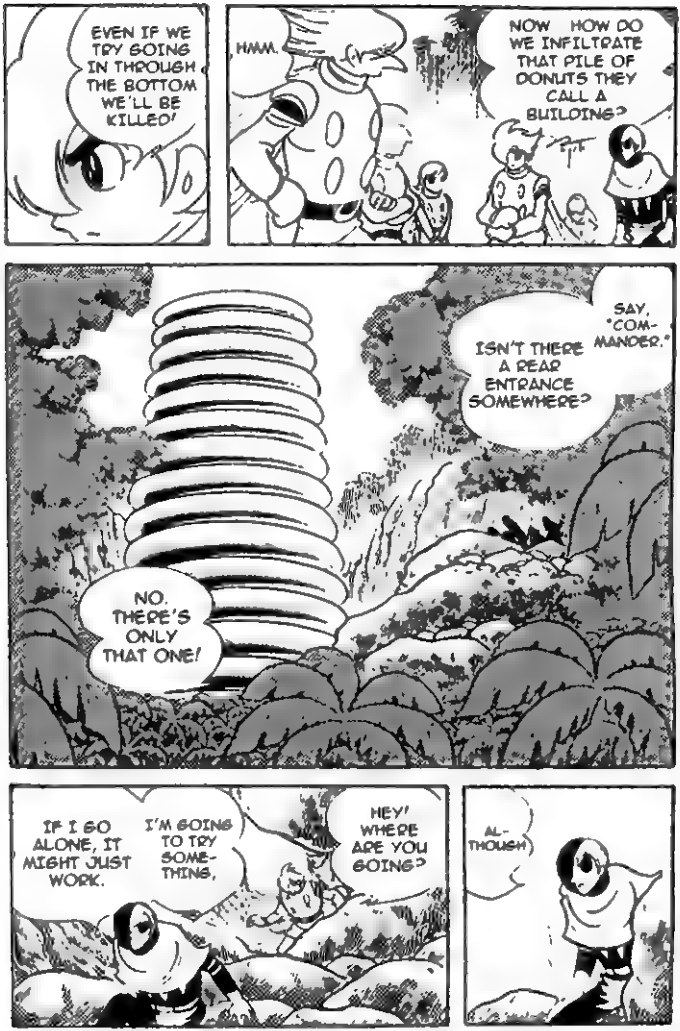

AH, 002, 004!
ARE YOU OKAY?
HEY, 009!
WHOA !!
HEY, LOOK!
UH!

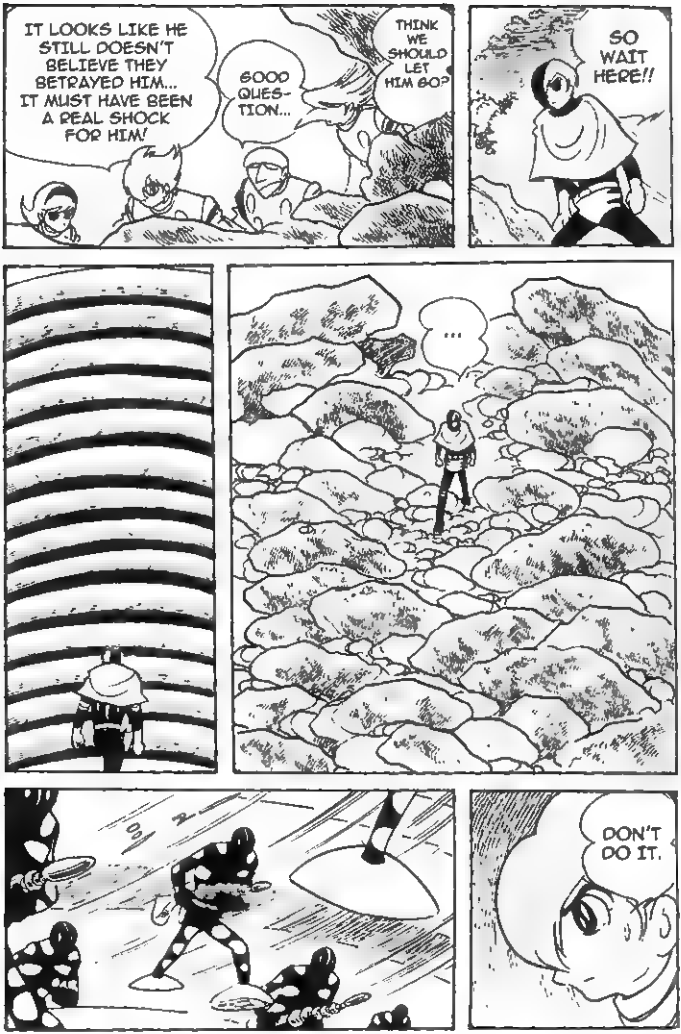

HEY, YOU READY?
HEY NOW, THAT'S PRETTY IMPRESSIVE
HEHE HE...

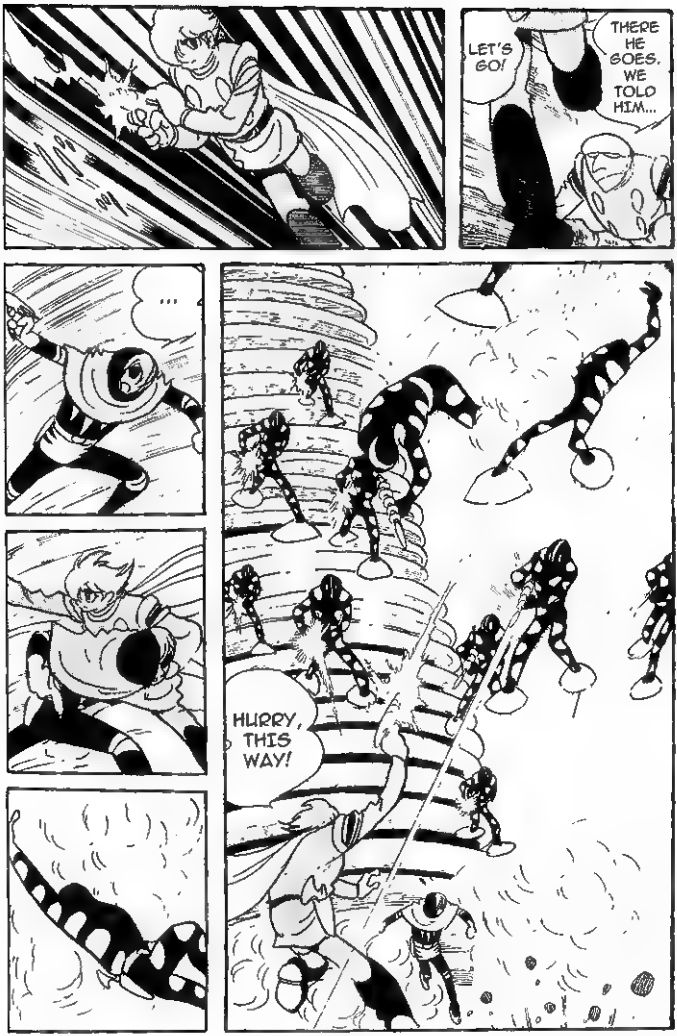


HAHAH
HEH! NICELY DONE.
...
...
...
I THINK I SEE WHAT'S GOING ON. YOU'VE BEEN BETRAYED BY YOUR SUBORDINATES!
WELL, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NOW?!

...
I'LL BE SURPRISED IF HE DOES, HEHEHE.
ARE YOU GOING TO SHOOT US, TOO ....?!
...
YOU HAVEN'T STOPPED BEING MY ENEMIES.
HOWEVER, UNTIL I FIGURE OUT WHAT'S REALLY GOING ON... I DECLARE A TRUCE!
SOUNDS GOOD, SOUNDS GOOD.
MUCH BETTER.
THANKS FOR THAT.

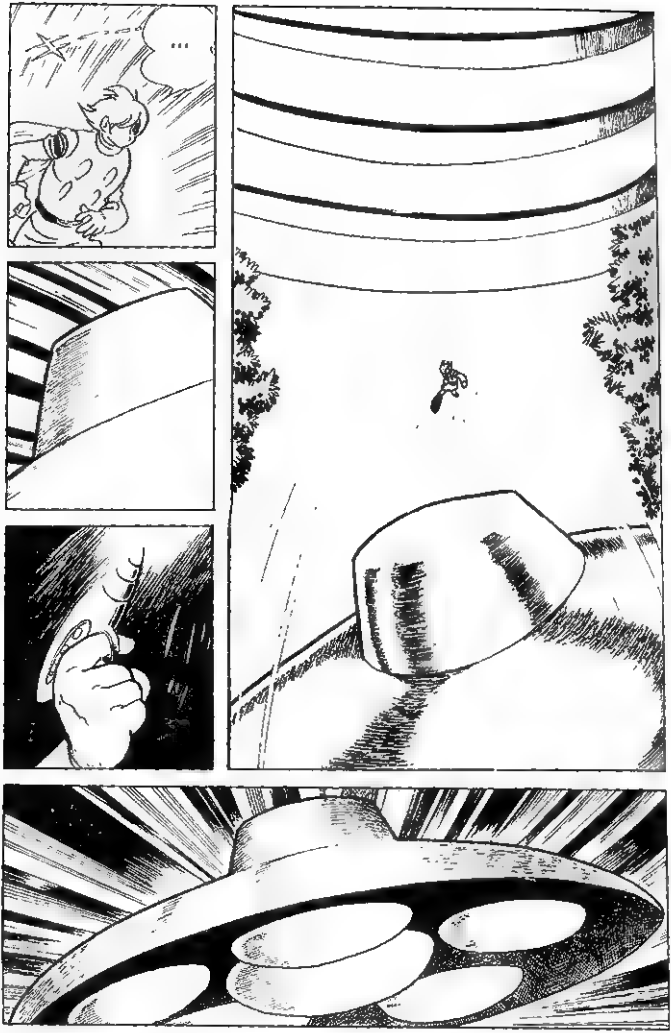

EVEN IF WE TRY GOING IN THROUGH THE BOTTOM WE'LL BE KILLED!
HMM.
NOW HOW DO WE INFILTRATE THAT PILE OF DONUTS THEY CALL A BUILDING?
SAY, "COMMANDER," ISN'T THERE A REAR ENTRANCE SOMEWHERE?
NO. THERE'S ONLY THAT ONE!
IF I GO ALONE, IT MIGHT JUST WORK.
I'M GOING TO TRY SOMETHING.
HEY! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
ALTHOUGH)

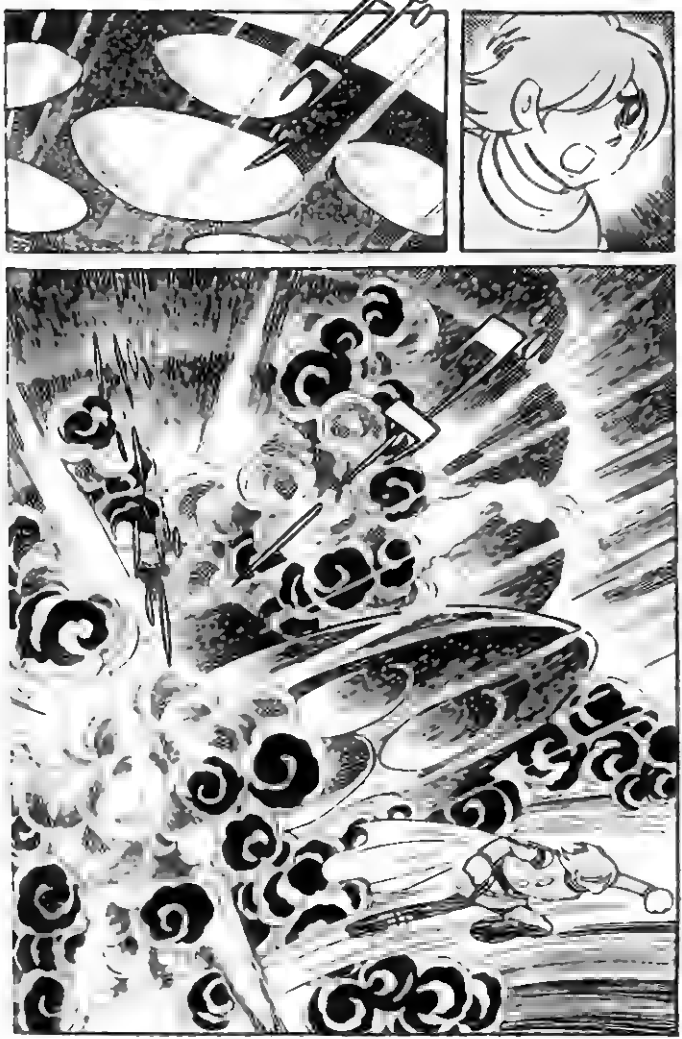

IT LOOKS LIKE HE STILL DOESN'T BELIEVE THEY BETRAYED HIM... IT MUST HAVE BEEN A REAL SHOCK FOR HIM!
GOOD QUES-TION...
THINK WE SHOULD LET HIM GO?
SO WAIT HERE!!
...
DON'T DO IT.


LET'S GO!
THERE HE GOES. WE TOLD HIM...
...
HURRY, THIS WAY!

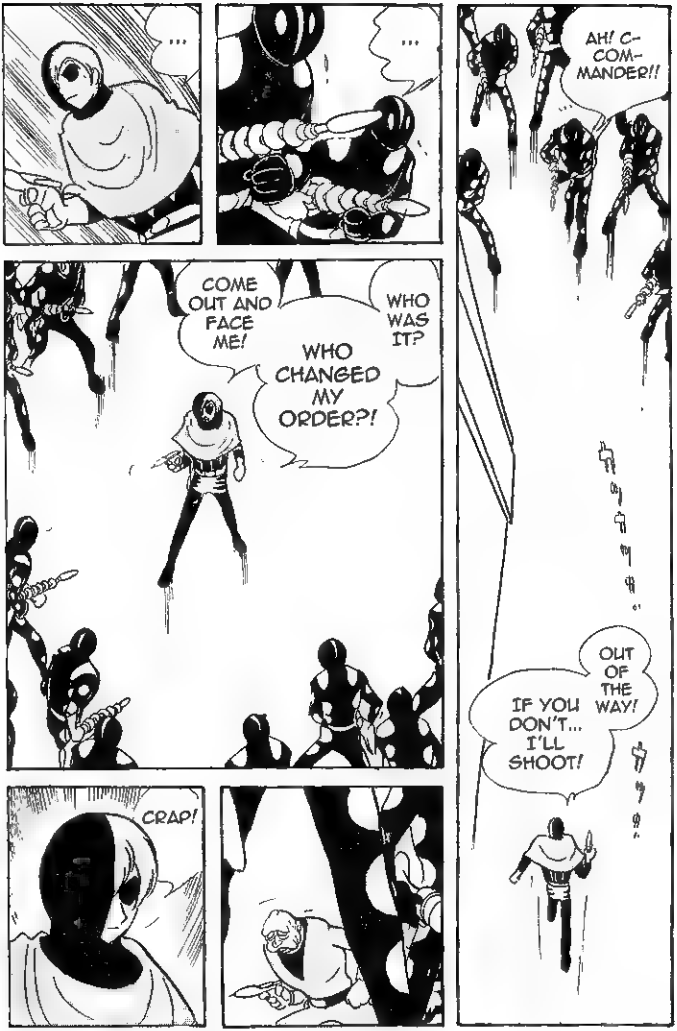
MAYBE IT WAS SOME-THING YOU SAID...
THINK BACK TO EARLIER,
BASTARDS! WH-WHAT THE HELL DO THEY THINK THEY'RE DOING!
YOU REALLY ARE AN IDIOT. DID YOU THINK THEY'D BE OVERJOYED TO SEE YOU?
MM.
AFTER THAT... IT WAS AFTER I LET YOU GO THIS WHOLE MESS STARTED, WASN'T IT...
AH!

THEY'RE BRINGING IN MORE FLYING SAUCERS!
IF I CAN PULL THIS OFF, WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO GET INSIDE!
IT'S TIME TO DO OR DIE.
THAT'S IT!





WE CAN GET IN THROUGH THIS HOLE!
OKAY, NOW'S OUR CHANCE!
...
LET'S GO!
HMPH. IT'LL BE HARDER FOR THEM TO SHOOT AT US NOW!


...
...
AH! C-COM-MANDER!!
COME OUT AND FACE ME!
WHO WAS IT?
WHO CHANGED MY ORDER?!
OUT OF THE WAY!
IF YOU DON'T... I'LL SHOOT!
CRAP!

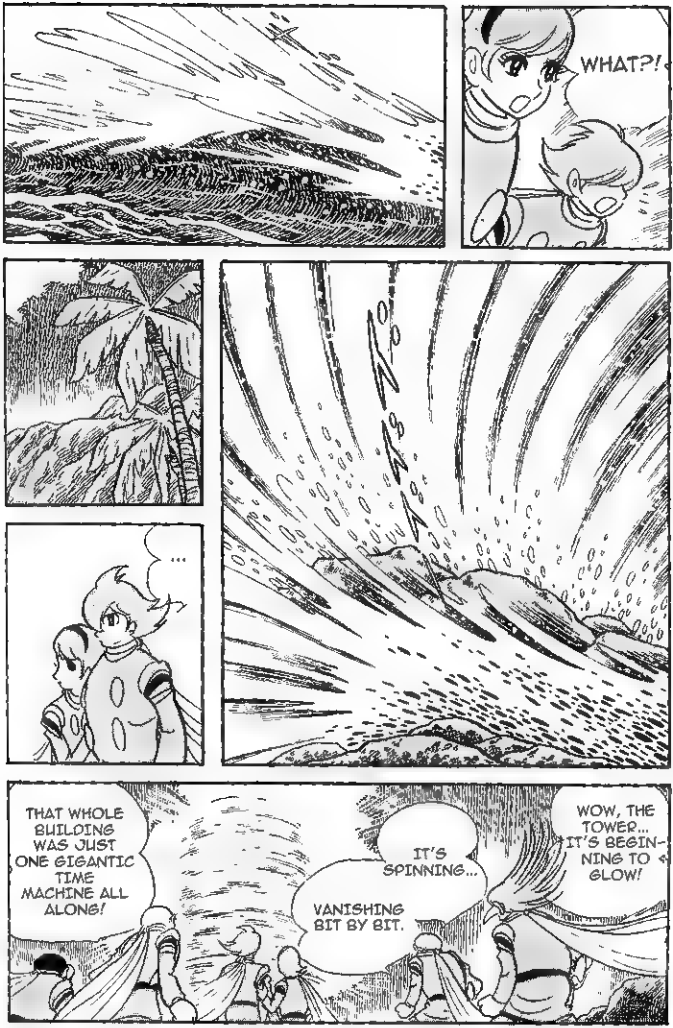
HNGH!
IT WAS YOU BASTARDS, HUH?!
IN THAT CASE...
WHY?!
AAHH... YOUR MANAGE-MENT METHODS...
WEREN'T FIRM ENOUGH.
YOU WERE IN ON IT TOO?!
YOU LOT!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
IMBECILES!
THEN TAKE THOSE TWO OUT AT ONCE!
B-BUT, COMMANDER, SIR, THERE ARE ALREADY TWO PEOPLE IN THERE...
Y-YES-SIR!
LOCK THEM UP IN THE HOLE IMMEDIATELY!
WHAT?
TO THE CONTRARY!
I'M GLAD WE'RE SEEING EYE TO EYE.
THANK YOU.
A-AH!
YOU'RE STILL NOT ALL GOING HOME TOGETHER!

HMPH.
IT'S F-F-F ...
C-C-COMMANDER, SIR!
WHAT IS IT? SPIT IT OUT!!
PRODUCTION OF THE TIME WARP'S SUPER-CYCLE IS FINISHED!!
IT'S FINISHED!
...
...

WHAT...
THE...
?!
IT LOOKS LIKE THIS WAY...
YOU CAN AVOID ANY TROUBLE, RIGHT?
...
...!
CON-GRATU-LA-TIONS!
BEGIN PREPARA-TIONS!
WE LEAVE AT ONCE!
HEHE, YOU'RE ABOUT TO FIND OUT!
HEY, WHAT JUST HAPPEDED, ANYWAY...?!

FARE-WELL, COM-MANDER!
AND SO... AAH, AND SO, WE... WILL BE HUMANITY'S ANCESTORS?!
...
BUT BEFORE YOU GO... ABOUT WHAT YOU WANTED TO TELL US EARLIER.
OUR IMMIGRA-TION TARGET TIME HAS CHANGED!
WE'RE GOING BACK!
WAY BACK!
A MILLION YEARS OR MORE
TO THE ERA OF HUMANITY'S BIRTH!
THAT IS WHERE WE WILL MIGRATE!
I'LL TELL YOU!
IT WAS THAT WAY I DISCOVERED...
REMEMBER, WHEN I WAS INVESTIGATING THE CONTENTS OF YOUR HEAD BEFORE?
YOU AND FRANCOISE ARE MY DISTANT ANCESTORS!

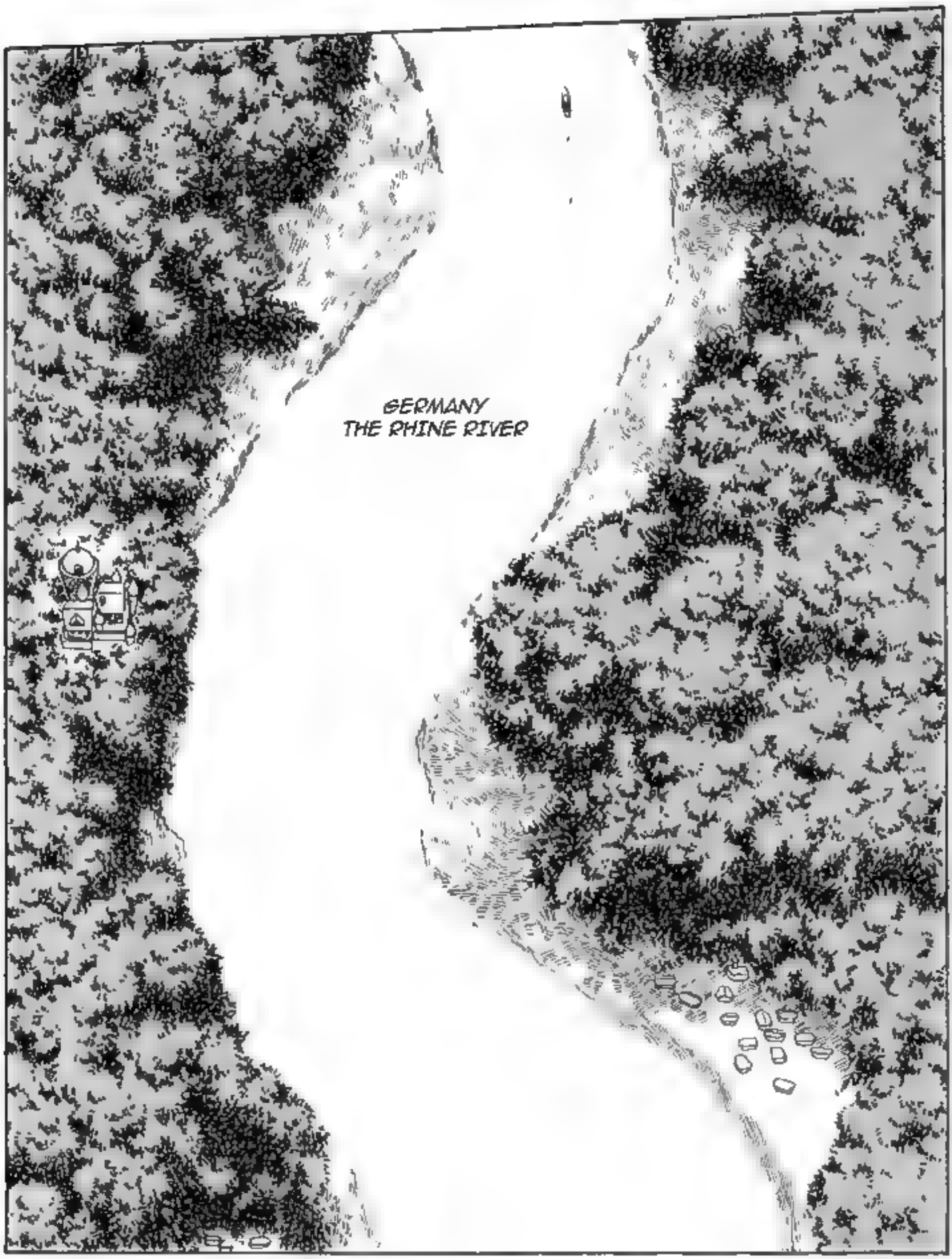

WHAT?!
...
THAT WHOLE BUILDING WAS JUST ONE GIGANTIC TIME MACHINE ALL ALONG!
IT'S SPINNING... VANISHING BIT BY BIT.
WOW, THE TOWER... IT'S BEGINNING TO GLOW!

THEY'LL BECOME OUR ANCESTORS?!
EH ?!
THAT MEANS... THEY'LL BECOME HUMANITY'S ANCESTORS!
IT'S FADING AWAY...
THERE IT GOES! A MILLION YEARS INTO THE PAST...
THAT'S RIGHT. BUT... THIS MEANS... HUMANITY DIDN'T ORIGINATE FROM SINGLE CELLS NOW!
TIME IS A LOOP. THE BEGINNING AND END OF A WINDMILL FORM A CIRCLE, GOING AROUND AND AROUND AND AROUND...
THAT WAS A POEM BY SOMEBODY, WASN'T IT?
HE HE HE
OUR DESCENDANTS HAVE BECOME OUR ANCESTORS ...?!
TH-THEN, WAIT! IF THAT'S SO...
WHY DOESN'T ANY OF IT MAKE ANY SENSE ANY-MORE?!

IMMIGRATION STORY/END

THE TALE OF LORELEI'S SONG

CHAPTER 1 LORELEI'S SONG



IT'S A SOMEWHAT BORING TRIP, BUT..

TOURISTS TO GERMANY MAY TAKE A BOAT DOWNRIVER TO SEE THE SIGHTS.

BY AND BY, AN ANCIENT CASTLE WILL BE REVEALED. THE SCENE IS SPLENDIDLY BEAUTIFUL...

AND THEN...

STANDING AS ALWAYS, THE ROCK, LORELEI

AT LEAST ...

OF COURSE, THE TRUTH IS NOTHING SO ROMANTIC. IT'S JUST A ROUGH LUMP OF STONE.

LOCAL LEGEND TELLS OF A MALEVOLENT FEMALE SPIRIT WHO SITS UPON THIS ROCK, LURING TRAVELERS TO THEIR DOOM WITH HER BEAUTIFUL SONG

THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT BEFORE

WHEN JUST THE OTHER DAY I STUMBLED ACROSS A BIZARRE INCIDENT

I WAS WORKING AS A DRIVER FOR A LONG DISTANCE TRANSPORT COMPANY...

I HADN'T ORIGINALLY PLANNED TO TAKE THIS ROAD, BUT MY PASSENGER, A CO-WORKER, SAID HE KNEW A SHORTCUT.

SO, I TURNED AROUND

THAT NIGHT I DROVE ALONG AS USUAL, BOUND FOR A SMALL VILLAGE NOT FAR FROM LORELEI.

SCREECH

KEIN DURCHGANG!

SIGN: DO NOT ENTER!

NOTHING FOR IT. WE'LL HAVE TO HEAD BACK THE WAY WE CAME...

HUH? ARE THEY DOING CONSTRUC-TION WORK?

WHAT? THERE'S A ROAD-BLOCK!

HM ?!

IT SOUNDED LIKE MODERN JAZZ PLAYED WITH A HUNTING HORN, OR MUSIQUE CONCRÈTE.

AGAIN I HEARD THAT MYSTERIOUS NOISE, INDISTINCT AS AN OPERA SINGER'S ARIA...

IT WAS THEN I THOUGHT I HEARD A STRANGE VOICE SINGING... OR AT LEAST, SOMETHING LIKE IT!

NOTE **ARIA** IS A LONG, ACCOMPANIED SONG FOR A SOLO VOICE, TYPICALLY ONE IN AN OPERA.

IT WAS UNEARTHLY SOMEHOW, A MOURNFUL SOUND WHICH TUGGED AT THE HEARTS OF MEN

IT WAS... LIKE THE SONG OF LORELEI!

AS THE NOTION OCCURRED TO ME... IT BECAME STRONGER, DRAWING ME DIZZILY INTO THE DEPTHS OF THE FOREST...

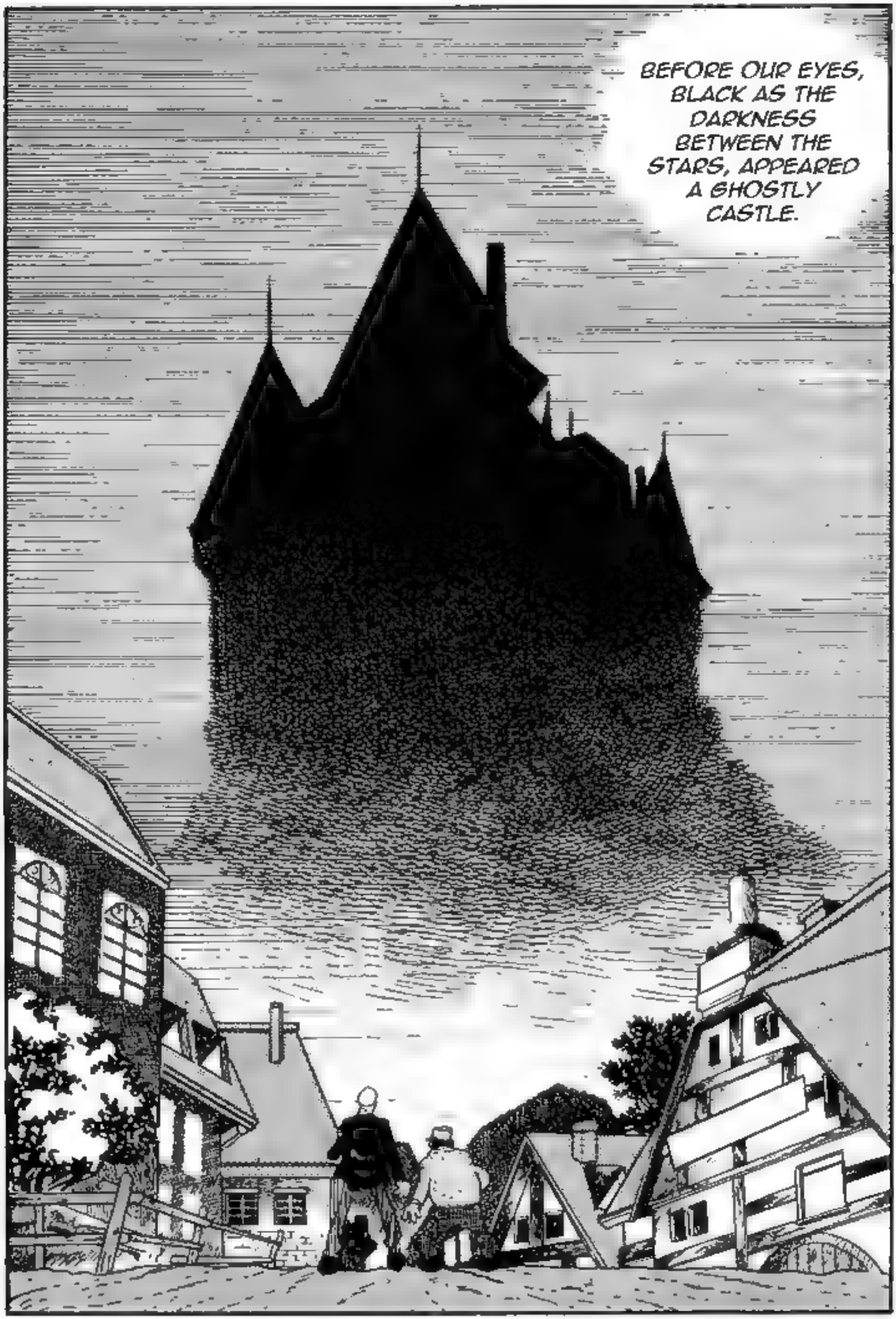
IT SEEMED I WASN'T THE ONLY ONE WHO HEARD IT.

SUDDENLY, I NOTICED MY CO-WORKER BESIDE ME, STAGGERING ALONG IN THE SAME WAY

THE SOUND WAS UNDEFIABLE, SINKING ITS CLAWS INTO OUR HEARTS AND MINDS. WITHOUT THINKING, WE LET OURSELVES BE GUIDED THROUGH THE WOODS...

INTO THE MIDST OF A VILLAGE, SETTLED OVER BY AN EERIE, DEATHLIKE SILENCE.

THEN...


BEFORE OUR EYES, BLACK AS THE DARKNESS BETWEEN THE STARS, APPEARED A GHOSTLY CASTLE.

IN FACT, THE DREADFUL NOISE SEEMED TO COMING FROM WITHIN.

CLIPPITY-CLOP

CLIPPITY-CLOP

CLIPPITY-CLOP

AT THAT MOMENT ...

CLIPPITY-CLOP

CLIPPITY-CLOP

FLASHING

HA HA HA

HA HA HA

SIZZLE

CLIPPITY-CLOP
CLIPPITY-CLOP
CLIPPITY-CLOP
CLIPPITY-CLOP
CLIPPITY-CLOP
CLIPPITY-CLOP

THE MUSIC CROWDED OUR HEADS... WE HAD LOST THE POWER TO EVEN THINK.

THAT SOUND COULD SNATCH AWAY A HUMAN'S WILLPOWER.

WHAT'S MORE... THE EVENTS OF THAT TIME...

THINKING ON THEM NOW, THEY FEEL QUITE UNREAL, LIKE A DREAM...

FROM THERE, WE CONTINUED OUR UNCONSCIOUS, STUMBLING WALK TOWARD THE CASTLE...

...WE HAD JUST WITNESSED A MURDER WITHOUT DOING... NO, WITHOUT BEING ABLE TO DO ANYTHING!

WRONG !

NNGH... TH... THIS IS...

HUH... ?

SNAP

HM...

H... HEY!

L... LET GO! I HAVE TO GO.

DRAG

DRAG

NN... GGH

WHACK

...

AS I DESPERATELY FOUGHT THE SOUND...

. MY FEET, WANTING TO GO TO THE CASTLE, FOUGHT ME RIGHT BACK IT TOOK EVERY OUNCE OF WILL I COULD MUSTER TO KEEP GOING

I HAD TO GET TO SOMEWHERE, ANYWHERE, AS LONG AS IT WAS AWAY FROM HERE..

AND TOOK OFF WITH THE SPEED OF A RACECAR...

I FLED THE VILLAGE

I LEAPT INTO THE TRUCK.

I WROTE OF MUSIC AND SOUND BEFORE, BUT...

I COULD NOT RIGHTLY CALL IT A "SOUND." I HEARD IT NOT WITH MY EARS, BUT DIRECTLY INSIDE MY HEAD.

PROFESSOR, I'M SURE YOU'VE ALREADY FIGURED OUT WHAT IT IS BY NOW, BUT...

IT WAS CAUSED BY ULTRASONIC WAVES OF SOME KIND, PRODUCED BY AN ORGANIZATION. I MAY HAVE CALLED IT MUSIC, BUT THERE'S NO MISTAKING IT

AFTER THAT. NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRY, I KEEP THINKING BACK TO IT I CAN'T FOCUS ON MY WORK

I WANT TO GO BACK THERE AND TRY INVESTIGATING IT PROPERLY, BUT... WHEN I THINK OF THAT SOUND...

ON THAT NOTE, I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK, PROFESSOR..

COULD YOU BUILD ME A MACHINE IMMUNE TO ULTRASONIC WAVES?

GIVE EVERYONE MY REGARDS,

TO DR GILMORE.

SIGNED, ALBERT HEIN- RICH...

HMMM...

ULTRASONIC WAVE MUSIC, HUH?

...

IF YOU CAN BUILD IT... PLEASE SEND IT HERE AS SOON AS YOU FINISH IT. I'M POSITIVE SOMETHING HORRIBLE IS BEING PLOTTED IN THAT VILLAGE, AND I INTEND TO FIND OUT WHAT

SIGN: GILMORE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH FACILITY

THERE'S DAMNED WELL NOTHING I CAN'T MAKE!

AL-THOUGH ...

INTERESTING, ISN'T IT? PROFESSOR, CAN YOU BUILD THE DEVICE HEINRICH ASKED FOR?

CAN... CAN I, INDEED!

I MADE HEINRICH, I MADE YOU, HOW CAN YOU EVEN ASK?!

WELL PROFESSOR, WHY DON'T WE GET STARTED? GOO, GOO

HA HA

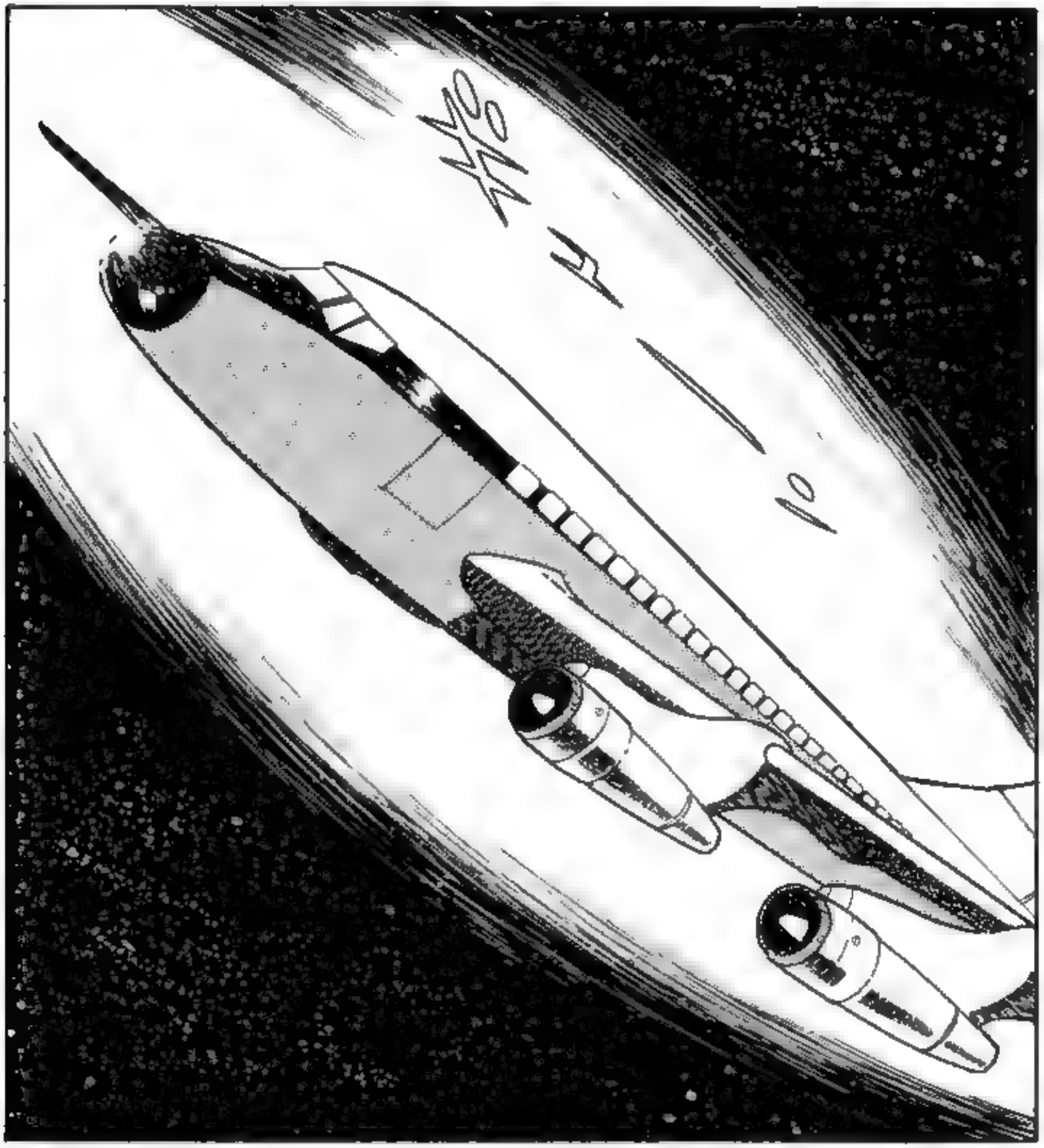
I WILL... BE NEEDING TO BORROW 001'S POWER.

BUT, THE SONG OF LORELEI, COMING FROM AN OLD CASTLE...

HEHEH

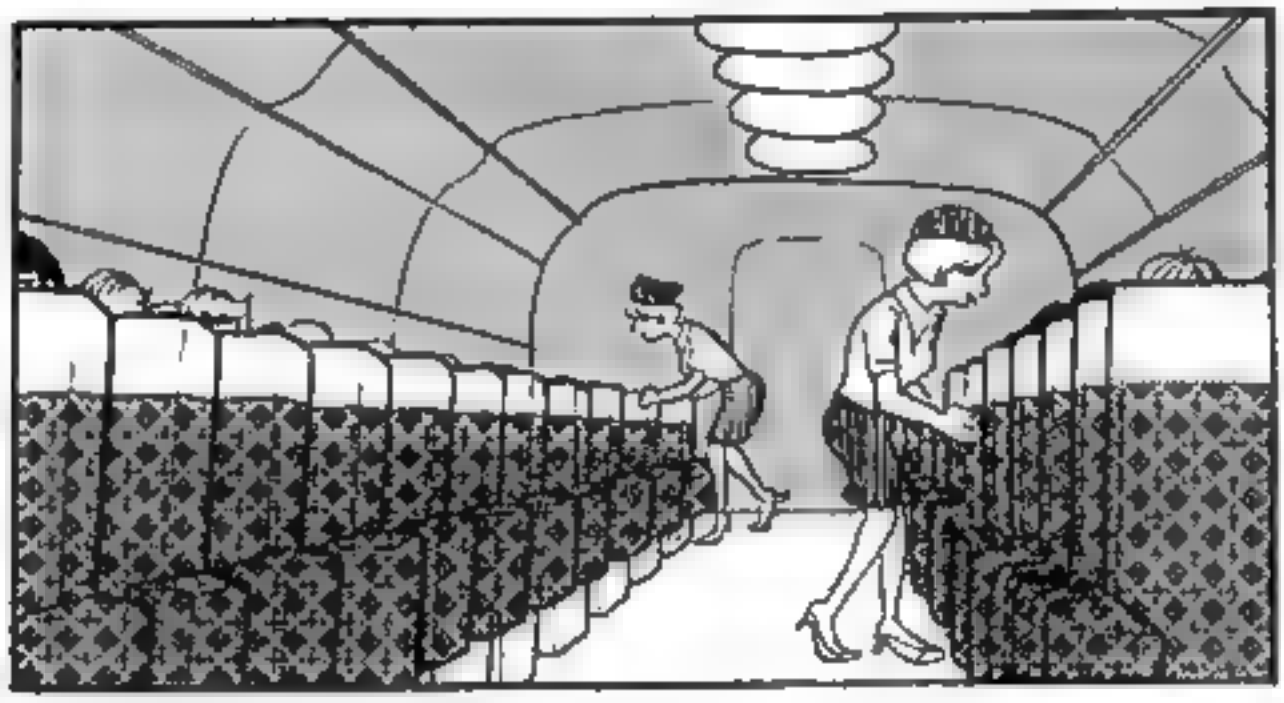
...YEAH.

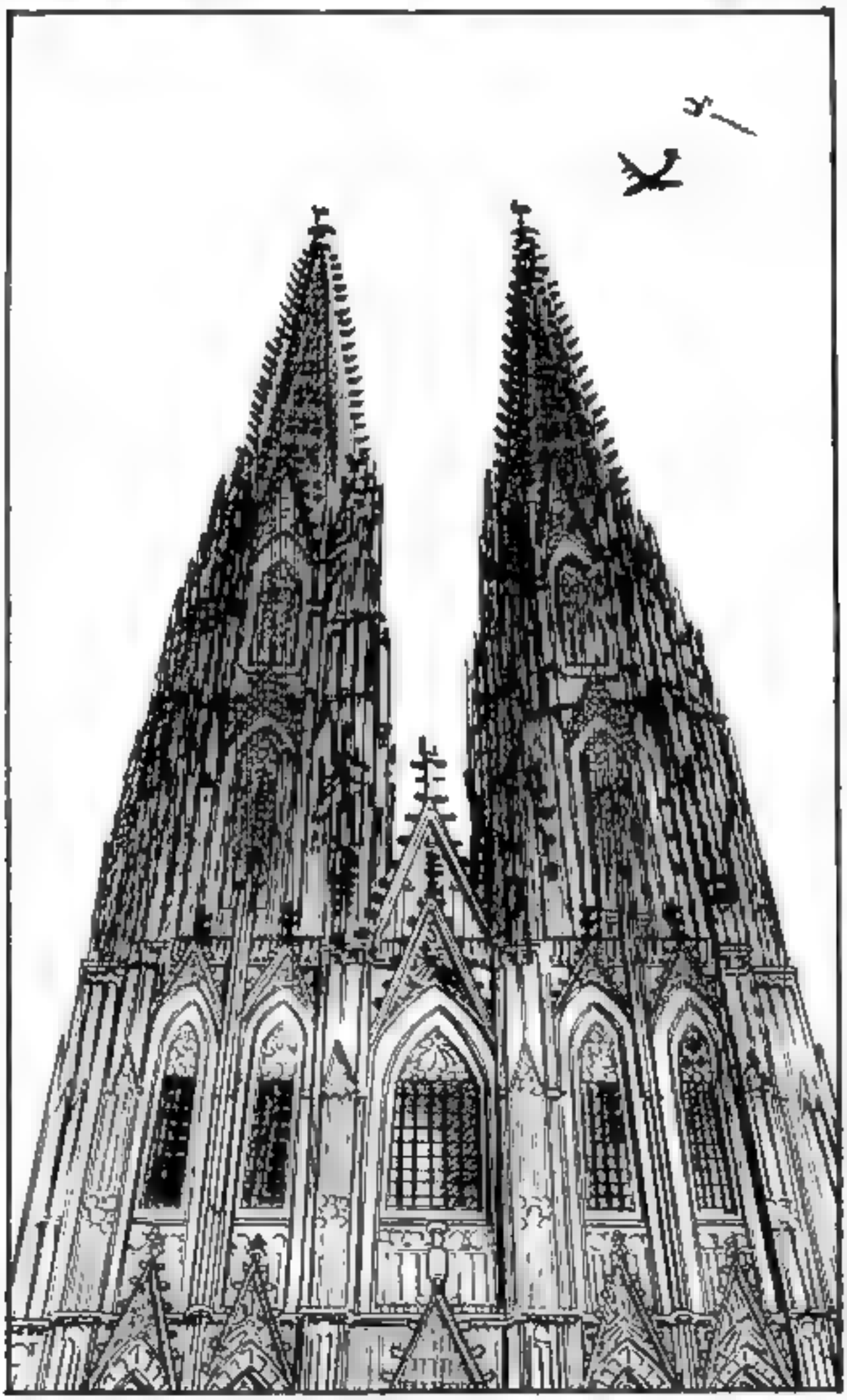
DOESN'T IT SOUND LOVELY, JOE?



PANEL 2 GERMAN:
STEWARDESS: PLEASE, TAKE ONE!
009/JOE: TH... THANK YOU!

GERMAN PANEL 3
STEWARDESS: AH, YOU KNOW GOOD GERMAN...
YOUR GERMAN IS EXCELLENT!





NOTHING ...

SEND IT!

AT ALL!

I DIDN'T BRING ANYTHING ...

DON'T BE LIKE THAT, HEINRICH...

HAHAH!

CAN BE DONE HERE!

ONCE IT'S SENT, YOU...

LET ME HAVE A SIGHTSEEING TRIP HERE AND THERE.

THERE IT IS!

JOE, PUT ON DR. GILMORE'S ULTRASONIC WAVE-FILTERING DEVICE.

...

SCRATCH

I WANT TO TRY LISTENING TO IT FOR A SECOND.

BEFORE I DO...

HEY, JOE, ARE YOU WEARING IT?

HUH?!

JOE!

NOW, DON'T TALK. THAT'S THE WRONG WAY.

..WERE YOU !!

YOU WEREN'T JOKING ...!

I'LL... GO TRY IT OUT.

ALL RIGHT, HURRY AND PUT THAT DEVICE ON!

KEIN DURCHGANG!

IF I'M NOT MIS-TAKEN...

START TO HEAR THE SOUND...

I SHOULD ...

HERE, THEN.

IF I COME TO ABOUT...

...HM.

UH-HUH.

LOOKS LIKE WE'RE SAFE FOR NOW!

CAREFUL!

RIGHT, LET'S GO!

WE DON'T KNOW WHETHER OR NOT SOMETHING MIGHT JUMP OUT AT US, AFTER ALL.

HUH?!

N-NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, I CAN STILL HEAR IT...

BUT WE SHOULDN'T BE AFFECTED THAT MUCH...

HM...? THAT CAN'T BE. IF YOU HEAR IT...

IT'S WEAK, BUT DO YOU STILL FEEL LIKE YOU CAN HEAR THAT NOISE?

BUT... HEINRICH, DO YOU STILL...

MMH...

I CAN HEAR IT, DISTANTLY...

Y-YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT ALTHOUGH ...

ANYWAY, LET'S HURRY AND GET THIS INVESTIGATION OVER WITH!

AH!

IT WAS NIGHT, SO I JUST ASSUMED EVERYONE WAS IN BED...

AT THE TIME...

HM, THAT'S ODD... THIS PLACE IS AS QUIET AS THE GRAVE, AND THERE'S NOT A SOUL AROUND.

HEINRICH, TRY CALLING OUT TO HIM!

THERE'S SOME-ONE!

Guten Tag!

GERMAN GOOD DAY!

EEGH!

Hilfe!

!

?

GERMAN: HELP!

QUACK

QUACK

QUACK

HUH ?!

I KNEW SOMETHING WAS UP HERE!

AT ANY RATE, LET'S TRY FINDING THE CASTLE FROM BEFORE!

AREN'T INFLUENCED BY THE NOISE AT ALL...!

HM... IT LOOKS LIKE ANIMALS...

GETTING IN THERE'S GOING TO TAKE SOME EFFORT!

YEAH, AND THE SUN WILL BE GOING DOWN SOON... WHAT'S THAT?

THAT'S ONE STURDY WALL.

HMM ...

HELICOP-TERS!

HN!

WHA--!

CREAK

CREAK

CREAK

CREAK

I SAW JUST WHO ARE THOSE PEOPLE?

THEY'RE LANDING ON THE OUT-SKIRTS OF THE FOREST!

CREAK

CREAK

CREAK

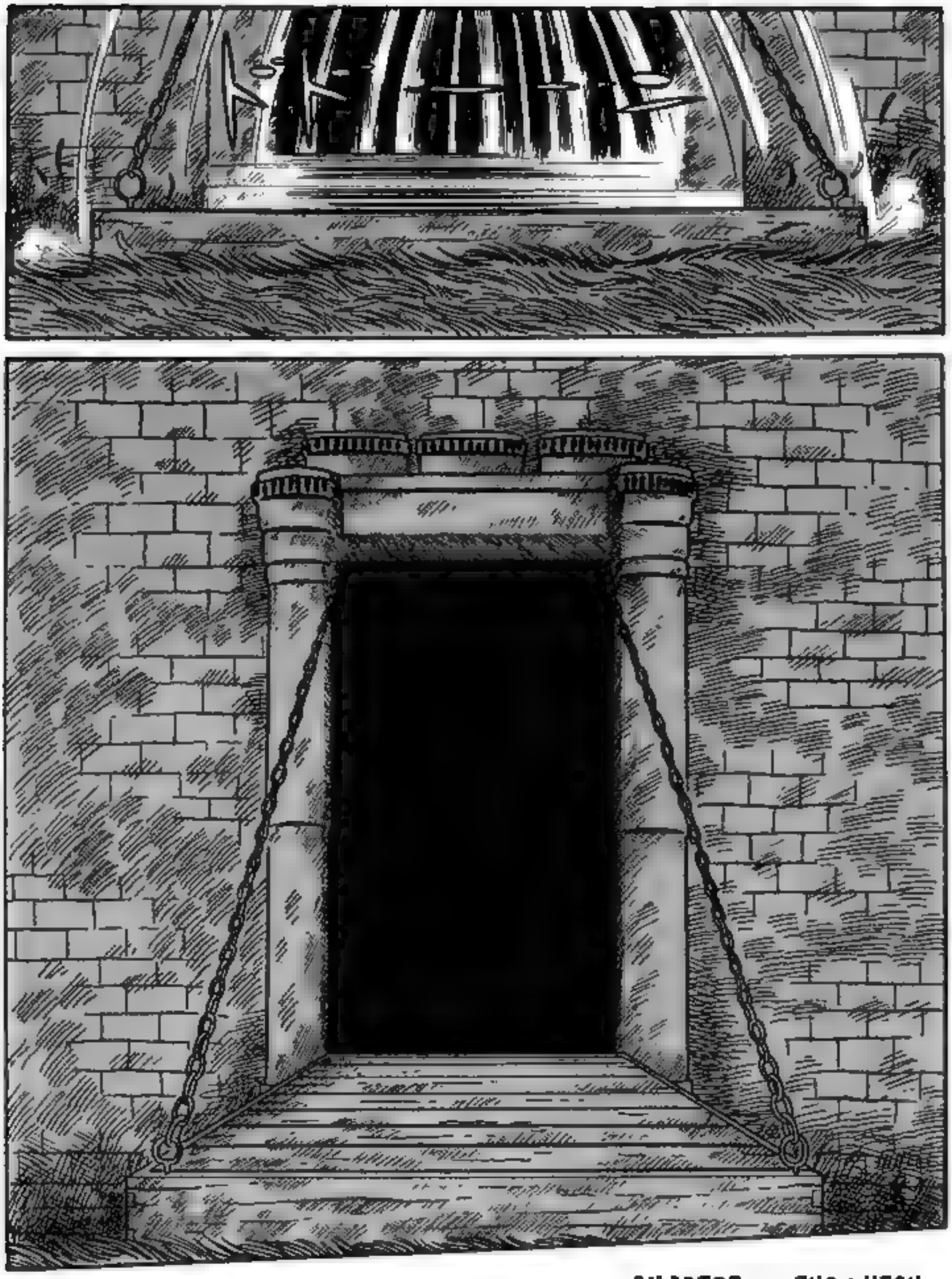
THE DRAW-BRIDGE IS LETTING DOWN!

RATTLE

RATTLE

CREAK

SOME-ONE'S COMING OUT!



...

HM?!

...

THERE IS SOMETHING UNSETTLING ABOUT HER, THOUGH.

NOT THIS UNRIVALLED BEAUTY!

HEH, HERE I WAS EXPECTING SOME FEARSOME-LOOKING FELLOW...

THAT MUST BE THE CASTLE'S PROPRIETOR. HERE SHE COMES...

IMPOSSIBLE... COULD SHE BE... LORELEI...?

ENOUGH TO MAKE ME WONDER IF SHE'S A PRINCESS OF OLD...

THE WAY SHE CAME DRIFTING OUT OF THAT ANTIQUATED CASTLE...

I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.

INDEED! LORELEI... THE MALEVOLENT SPIRIT!

LORE-LEI!

I WONDER IF THE SUPER-SONIC WAVE SONG ISN'T SLIGHTLY AFFECTING US.

NO MORE THAN OUR WEAKNESS FOR BEAUTIFUL WOMEN! HEHEHE

KEEP FOLLOW-ING OUR DRIFTING PRINCESS, OR...

HEHE... SO, WHAT DO WE DO?

HM, THERE'S STILL THE CASTLE!

SERIOUSLY... IT MUST BE THE ATMOSPHERE GETTING TO YOU.

THAT MAKES NO SENSE.

BAH!

LET'S DO IT! SHE CAME OUT OF THE CASTLE, AFTER ALL... SHE'LL HAVE TO GO BACK IN EVENTUALLY!

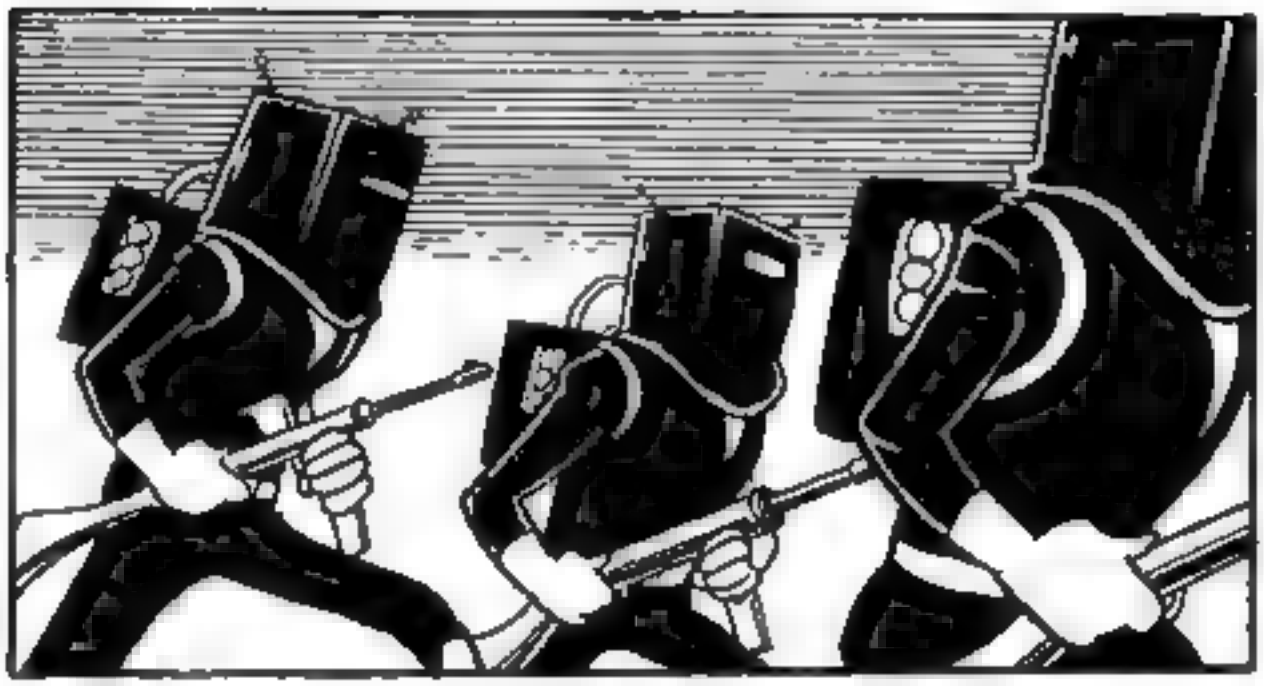
MM. IT'S NOT AN EASY CHOICE.

THIS MIGHT BE OUR ONLY CHANCE, BUT... JOKES ASIDE... SOMETHING ABOUT THAT WOMAN CONCERNS ME.

NOW, LET'S FIND LORELEI.

IT'LL BE FINE! WE'LL HAVE OUR CHANCE TO ENTER THE CASTLE AGAIN THEN... WE'LL TAKE IT THEN!

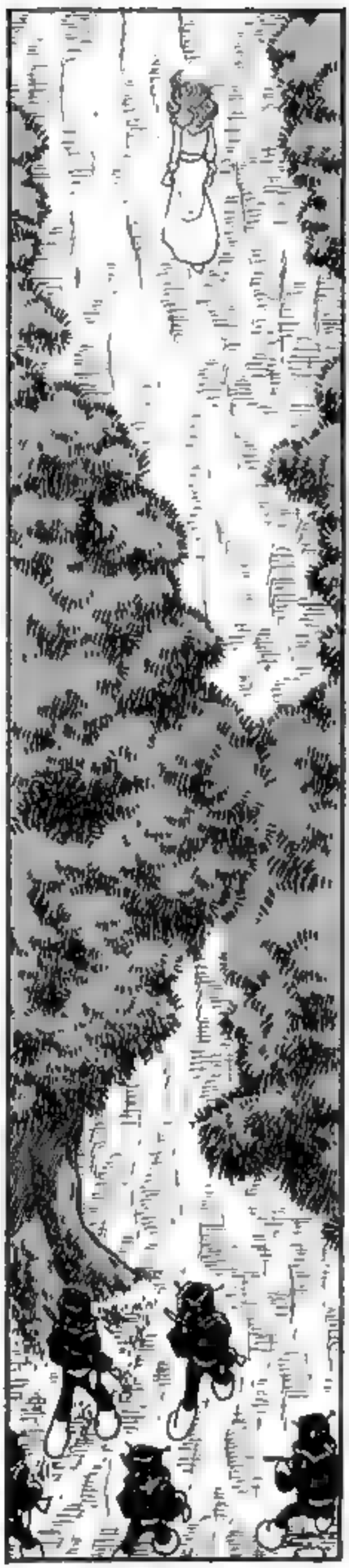
I SEE. BUT WILL THE GATE STAY OPEN UNTIL THEN...?



HUH ?!

NOT SURE!
WHO ARE THEY?

HEH! THIS IS GETTING MORE AND MORE INTERESTING.
THAT MUST BE IT.
WAIT... THEY MUST HAVE BEEN THE ONES PILOTING THE HELICOPTERS FROM BEFORE!



KNOCK KNOCK

...

CREAK

BEHOLD MY FACE, MY VOICE!

YES PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO THE WAY I LOOK AND SOUND.

...

TONIGHT IT'S YOUR TURN!

...

NOW... THINK BACK!

REMEMBER YOUR SINS!

PRIMITIVE, THOUGH... NOWHERE NEAR PROFESSOR GILMORE'S LEVEL OF WORKMANSHIP!

THEY HAVE TO BE SUPERSONIC WAVE-FILTERING DEVICES!

THE BOXES THOSE GUYS ARE CARRYING...

AH, I SEE!

THANKS TO THE WAVE-FILTERING DEVICE PLUGGING MY EARS, I CAN'T HEAR A THING!

HN.

I HEARD EVERY WORD!

REALLY ?

BESIDES THAT, WE'VE GOT PROFESSOR GILMORE AND 001 TO BACK US UP!

MY EARS MAY BE BLOCKED UP BY THIS... BUT AT LEAST I CAN USE IT TO GET IN TOUCH WITH THEM!

MHM.

IT'S ALSO A BRAIN WAVE COMMUNI-CATION DEVICE!

ISN'T THAT WOMAN BEING AFFECTED BY THE WAVES AT ALL?

BUT...

I'M GUESSING THEY CAN'T MAKE OUT WHAT SHE'S SAYING EITHER, THEN.

BEFORE LONG... THE KNIGHT OF VENGEANCE WILL COME FOR YOU.

...COME NOW, GET GOING. INTO THE DARKNESS!

SUCCUMB!

...

HM... THAT VILLAGER DIDN'T LOOK LIKE HE WAS GOING WILLINGLY. EVEN IF HE DID, I'D BE WORRIED...

SHOULD WE FOLLOW ?

WHAT DID SHE SAY?

HM ?

AH!

CLICK

NOW THIS IS ODD. AREN'T THOSE GUYS COMING?

MAYBE THEY'RE GOING AFTER THE VILLAGER?

THE KNIGHT FROM THAT NIGHT!

IT'S HIM!

CLIPPITY-CLOP CLIPPITY-CLOP

CLIPPITY-CLOP

CLIPPITY-CLOP

CLIPPITY-CLOP

CLIPPITY-CLOP

CLIPPITY-CLOP

CLIPPITY-CLOP

CLIPPITY-CLOP

CLIPPITY-CLOP

OF COURSE !

AFTER HIM!

CLIPPITY-CLOP

CLIPPITY-CLOP

CLIPPITY-CLOP

CLIPPITY-CLOP

CLIPITY CLOP

CLIPITY CLOP

CLIPITY CLOP

CLIPITY CLOP

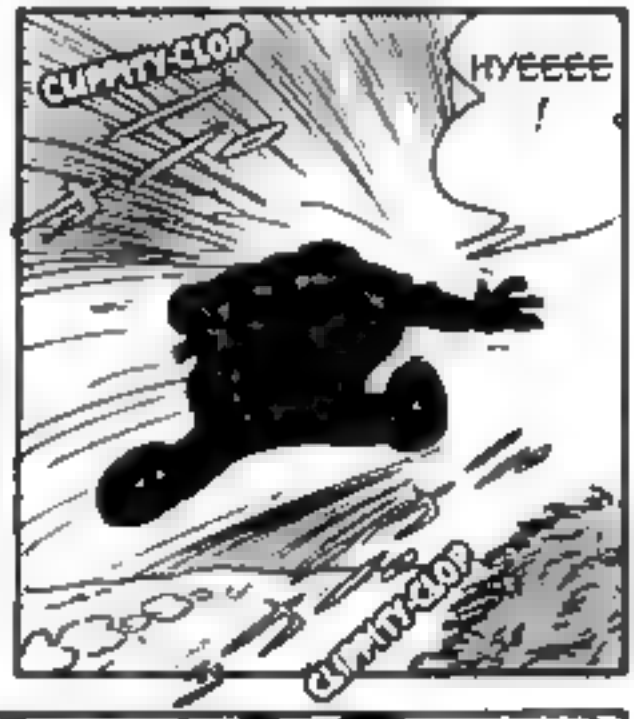
NEIGH

HA HA HA HA!

HA HA HA!

...!

CLICK


CLIPPITY-CLOP
HYEEEE!
CLIPPITY-CLOP

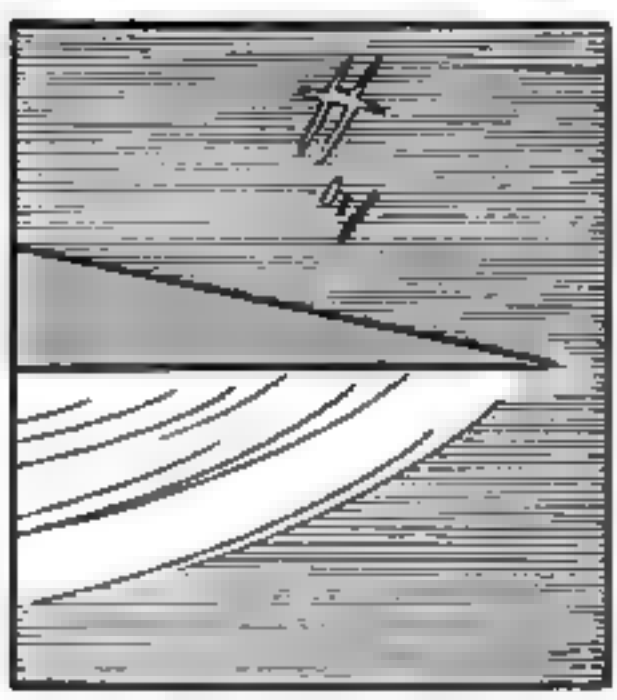
MN!
LOOK OUT, HE'LL KILL HIM!

HEY
CLICK

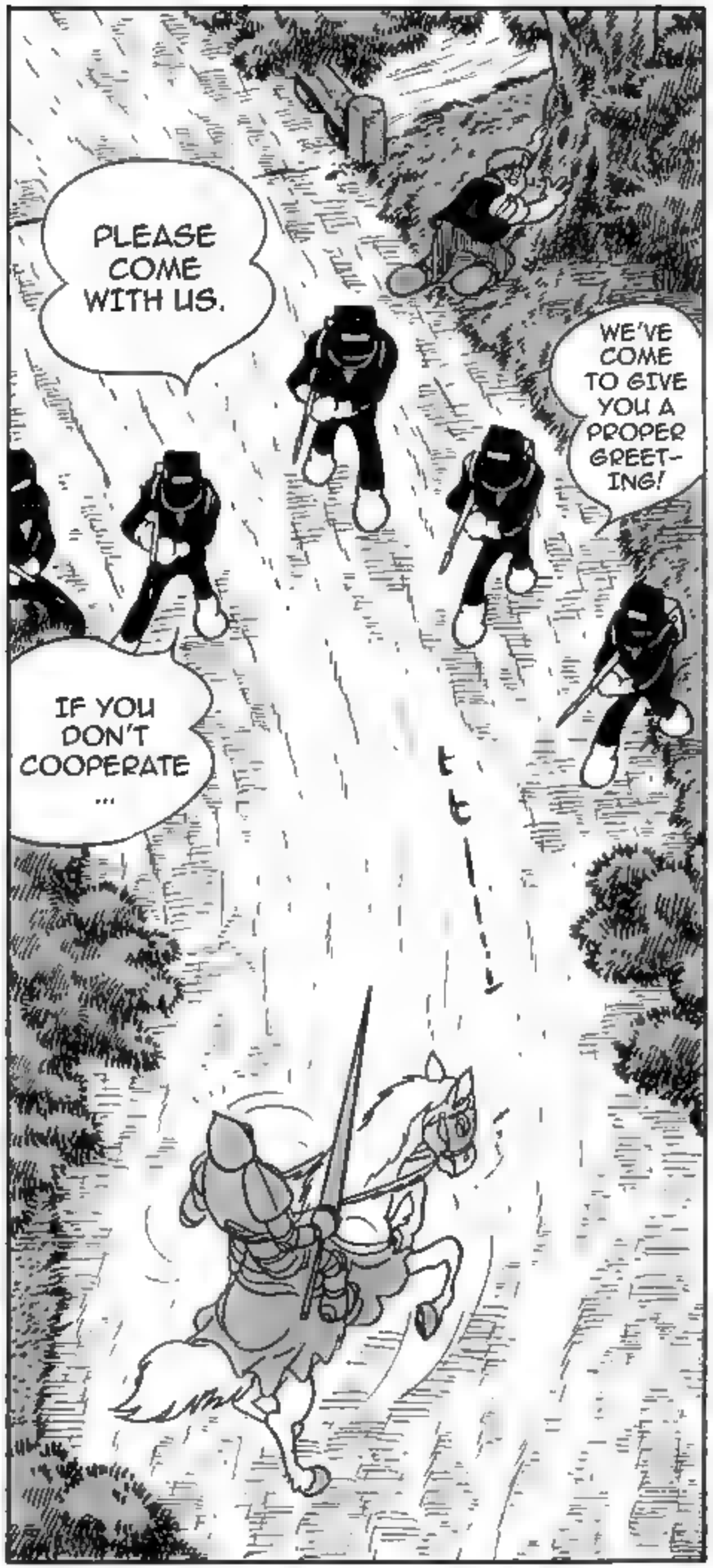
KNIGHT OF LORE-LEI!
CHARGE
STOP RIGHT THERE,
HOLD IT!

HUH?!

HA
HA
HA



AAHH!


PLEASE COME WITH US.
WE'VE COME TO GIVE YOU A PROPER GREET-ING!
IF YOU DON'T COOPERATE ...

FORGET IT, JUST SHOOT!

DAMN !

AHHH!

ACK!

BUDAHH
!

I CAN'T TELL WHICH SIDE WE SHOULD BE HELPING!

AH!

NEIGH

NEIGH

NNH...

STOP WHAT YOU'RE DOING!

OOH!

GOOD OR EVIL, THAT MAN IS WOUNDED...

THIS IS WRONG!

THAT MAN'S SUFFERED ENOUGH!

ALL RIGHT, SIR KNIGHT!

HM ?!

...HUP!

AS I SUSPECTED, ORDINARY BULLETS ARE USELESS AGAINST HIM.

HA HA!

SORRY, YOU POOR HORSE!

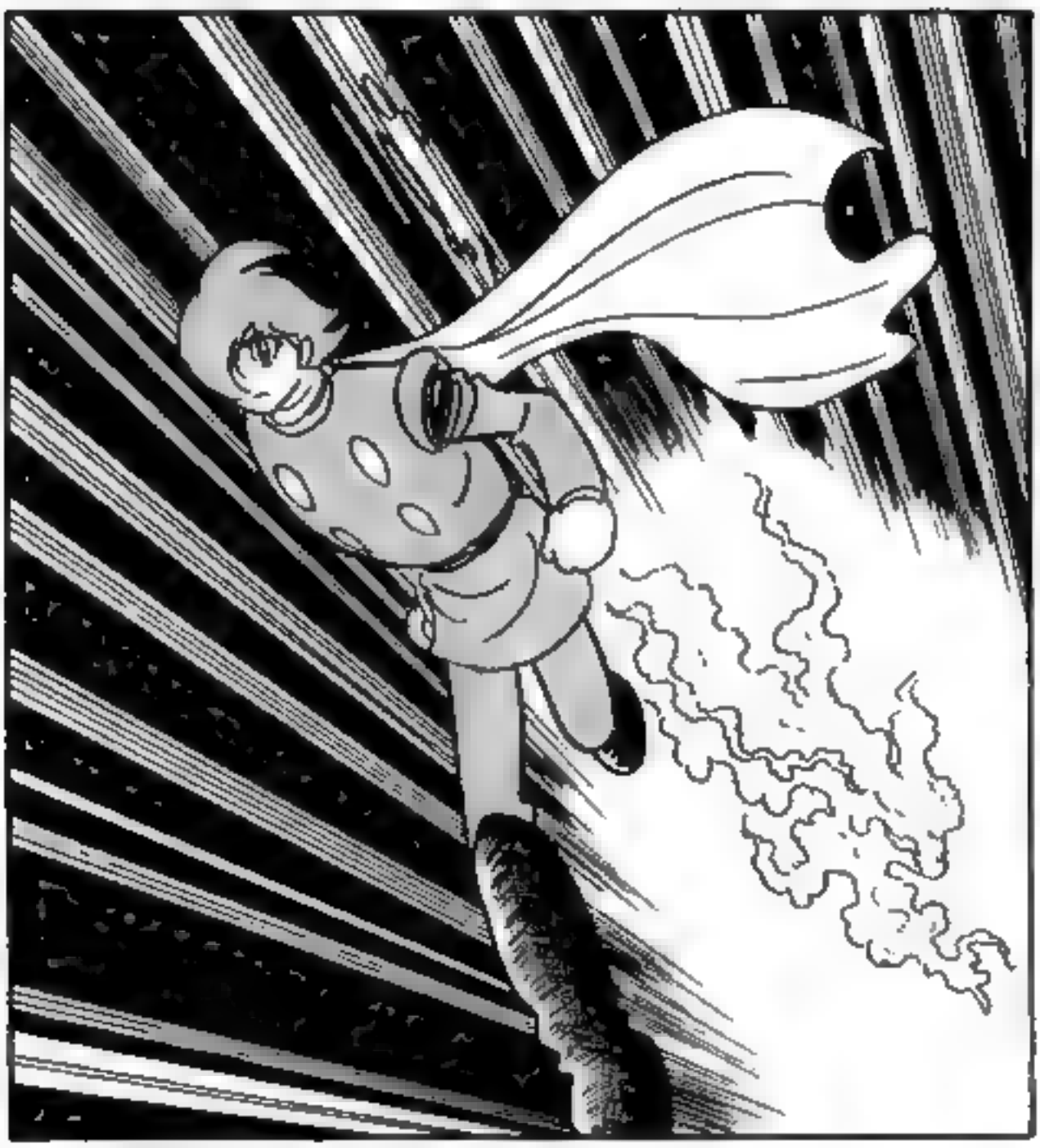
HEE!

UH-OH!

WHOA, WHOA!

WHOOP
!

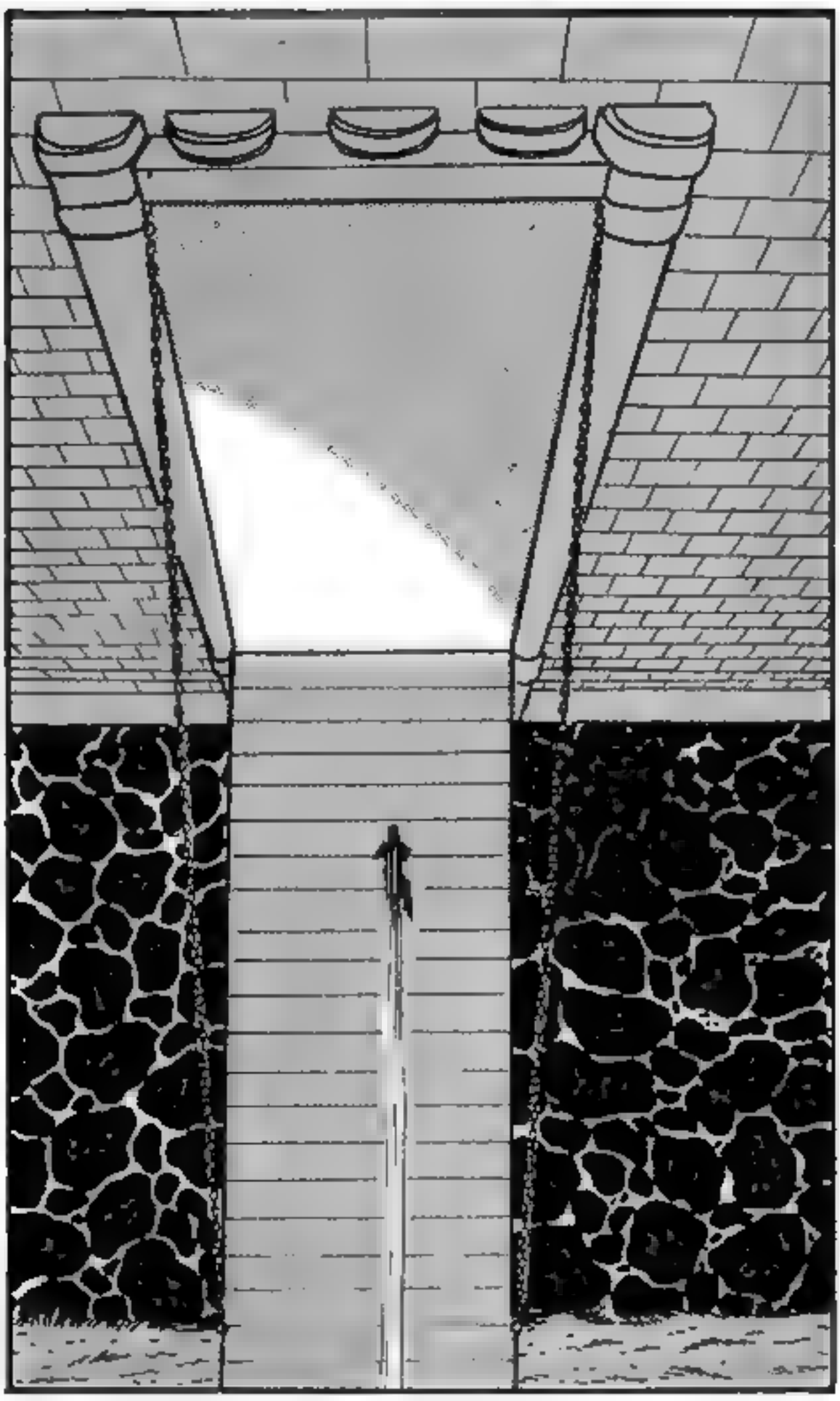
CLIPPITY-CLOP
CLIPPITY-CLOP
CLIPPITY-CLOP
GOTCHA
!
009, YOU TAKE IT FROM HERE!



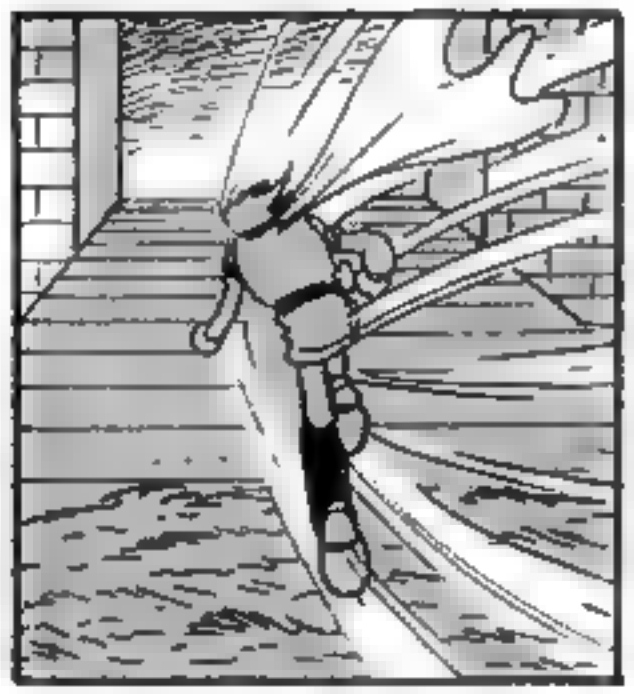
CLICK

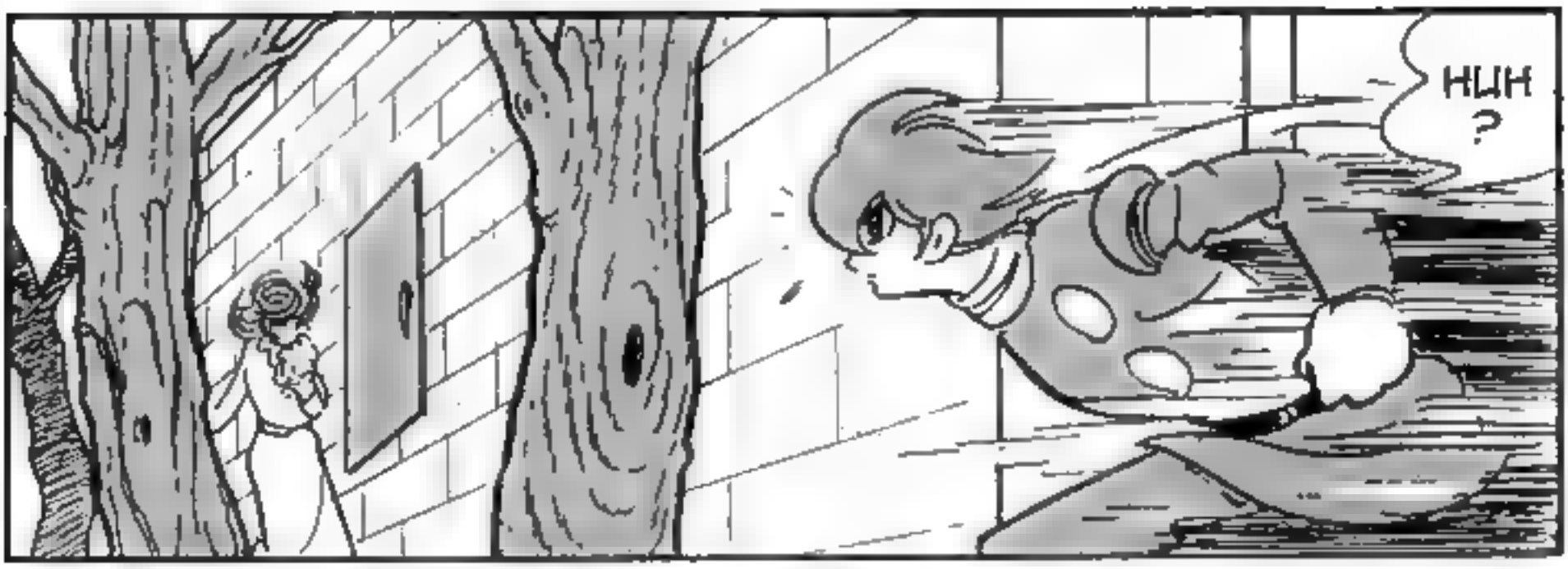
WHOOSH

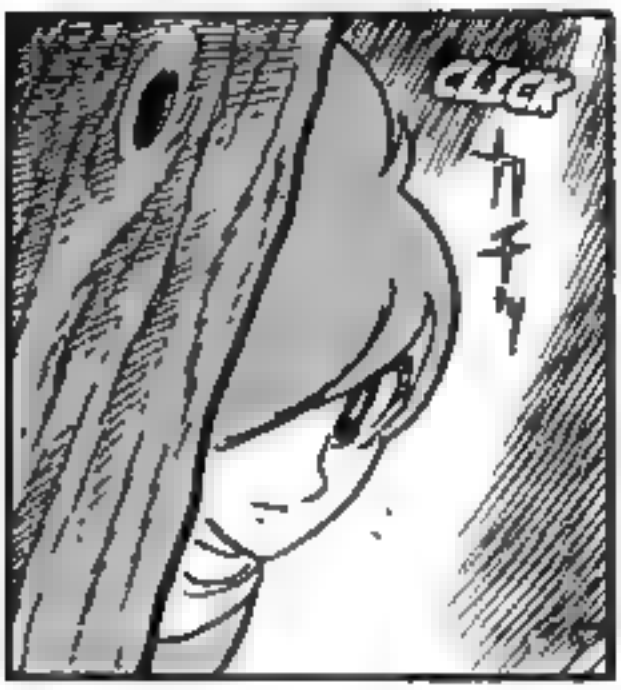
'SCUSE ME



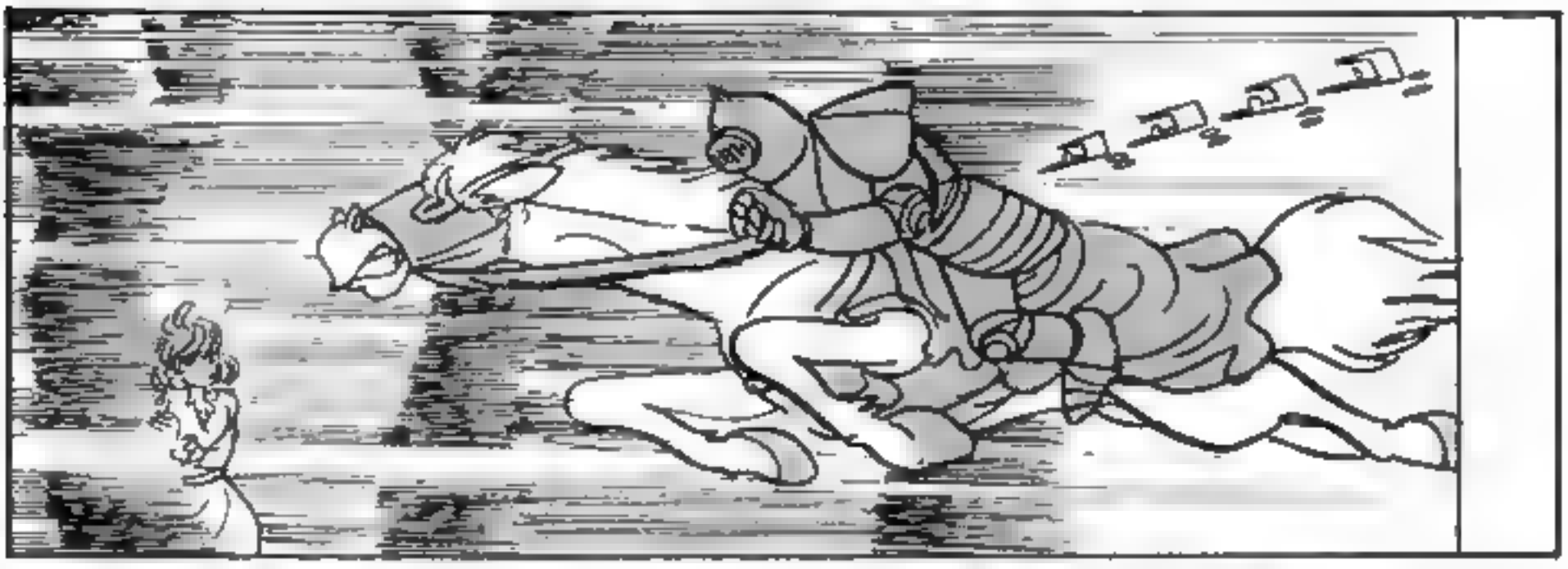
?
WHA ?!

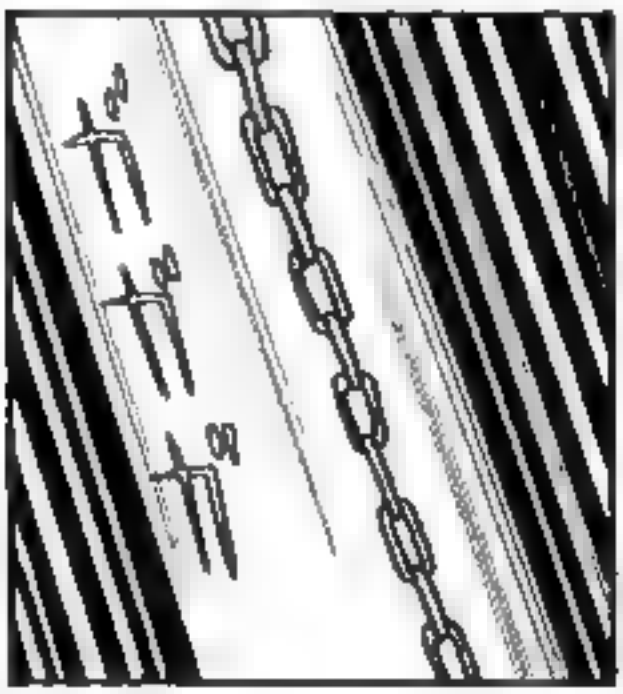



HUH
?


CLICK
カチャ

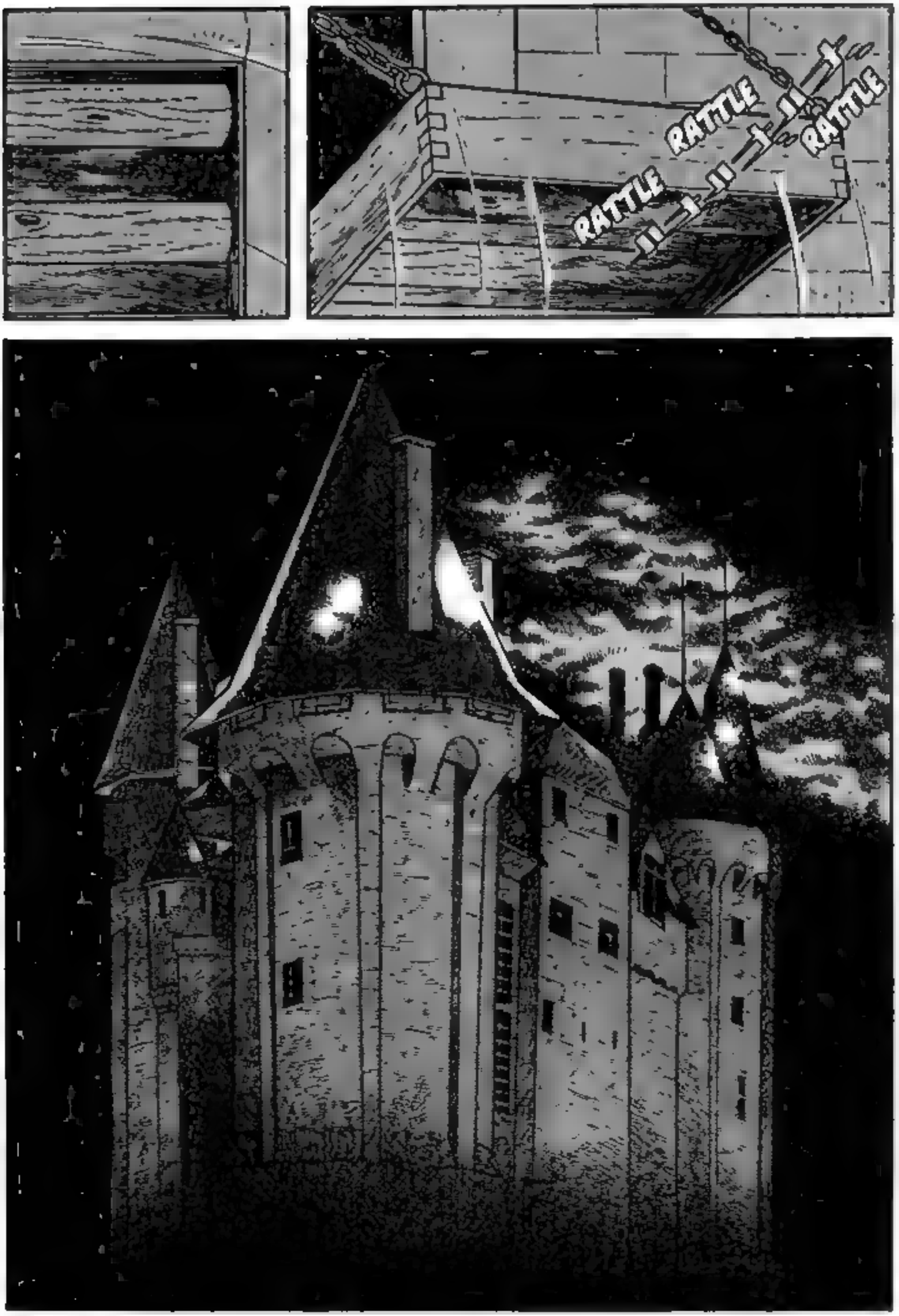
WOOSH
ゴゴゴ




ガチャ

…
ガーン!

LOMY
!
C-
CLOSE
THE
BRIDGE!


RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE

I... I'M NOT SURE... SOME STRANGERS GOT INTO THE VILLAGE...!

...?

MOTHER, WHAT HAPPENED ?

NNGH!

HM!

MOTHER!

OHH, LET'S STOP... ENOUGH OF THIS ALREADY...!

...

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!

I- I WON'T HELP YOU DO THESE... DREADFUL THINGS ANYMORE!

REMEMBER THE CRUEL THINGS THEY DID TO YOUR GRAND-MOTHER, MY MOTHER...!

...

SHE WAS PERSECUTED, MURDERED!

HMM... JUST AS I THOUGHT...

I CAN'T HEAR THE ULTRA-SONIC WAVES FROM IN HERE!

...LOMY, REMEMBER!

B-BUT, MOTHER, THAT... THAT WAS A VERY LONG TIME AGO!

...BY THOSE VILLAGERS ...!

THAT WAS A WOMAN THE WHOLE TIME?!

GUH!

LOOK AT YOUR MAMA'S EYE, LOMY...

HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT?! A VERY LONG TIME AGO, INDEED!

...YOUR GRAND-MOTHER, MY MOTHER... MURDERED!

AND FOR SO LONG, BY MYSELF...!

SUCH HARDSHIP I'VE HAD BECAUSE OF IT!

IT WAS TAKEN BY A ROCK... SMASHED!!

MY DEAR MOTHER, CALLING OUT MY NAME FROM WITHIN A SEA OF FIRE!

OHH! EVEN NOW I REMEMBER IT CLEARLY!

BURNED ALIVE... !!

SIMONE!

SIMONE!

SIMONE !

SIM...ONE !!

DIE ALREADY!

DAMNED WITCH!!

MOOOMMYYY!

MOMMYYY!

WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH THE CHILD?

SLUMP

WITCH !!

GET OUT!

I DON'T HAVE IT IN ME TO BURN HER ALIVE... WE'LL JUST DRIVE HER FROM THE VILLAGE.

HMM... SHE IS STILL LITTLE... WITCH'S DAUGHTER OR NOT, SHE COULDN'T DO ANY HARM!

AAAAA AAAH-HHH!!!

HIT

GET OUT!

GET OUT!

YES, I'VE BECOME A WITCH... FOR THE SAKE OF REVENGE!

...AND A WITCH I AM! I'VE BECOME ONE, NOW!

A WITCH, THEY SAID!

...

NNH!

YOU'RE ...?!

SOB
SOB

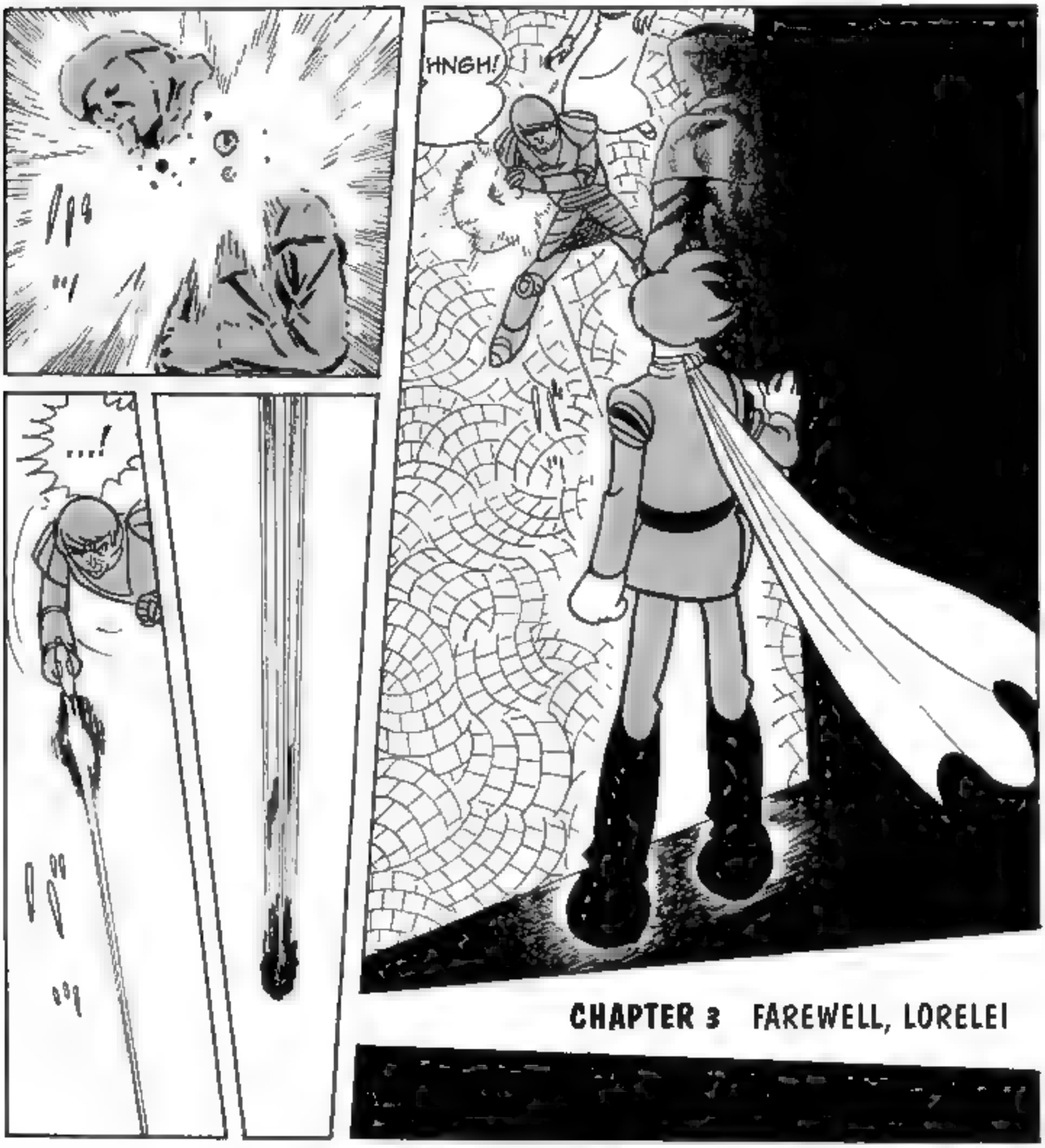
...

WHO'S THERE ?!

HUH ?!

COME ON OUT!

WHO GOES THERE?



CHAPTER 3 FAREWELL, LORELEI

OVER HERE... FRAU WITCH!

HUH ?!

TCH!

DON'T SHOOT AT ME.

CEASE AND DESIST!

I'M A DEFENDER OF JUSTICE... OR SO I LIKE TO THINK.

...

THERE'S NO GLORY IN VENGEANCE!

YOU'RE MISTAKEN!

Y-YOU HEARD EVERYTHING I SAID?!

THEY LABELED YOU A WITCH, AND MURDERED YOUR FAMILY... DROVE YOU FROM THE VILLAGE BY YOURSELF... I HEARD THAT MUCH...

I THINK SO...

...

WHA, WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU?

CYBORG 009!

IT'S LIKE A KID'S COMIC BOOK, WHEN I SAY IT THAT WAY...

THAT A VILLAGE COULD BE CONTROLLED BY SUPERSTITION SO RECENTLY...!

BUT THERE'S ONE PART I CAN'T BELIEVE!

THEY BURNED THEM TO DEATH...!

IT'S TRUE...

I'M NOT LYING!

I... I...

THEY SET THEM ON FIRE, EVEN THEN... THE SAME PEOPLE THAT COOKED THEM ALIVE UNTIL ONLY BLISTERED CORPSES REMAINED, THE PEOPLE THAT THREW STONES... THOSE PEOPLE EXISTED EVEN THEN!

...

AND GRAND-CHILDREN...

THEIR CHILDREN,

HAHAHA... BUT ONLY THEN. I GAVE THEM A BLOODBATH... HAHAHA AND AFTER THAT...

WITH THESE HANDS...!

I KILLED THEM TO THE VERY LAST WITH THESE HANDS...!

ALL HATRED CAN DO IS CREATE MORE HATRED!

BUT THE WAY YOU'RE GOING ABOUT IT IS ALL WRONG.

...I UNDER-STAND HOW YOU FEEL!

TO THAT END... YOU SHOULD HAVE TRIED TO RID THE VILLAGE OF SUCH MYTHS ALTOGETHER!

IF YOU'RE GOING TO HATE ANYTHING, YOU SHOULD HATE THE SUPERSTITIONS THAT SNATCH AWAY HUMAN REASONING!

YOU'RE RIGHT!

I DON'T UNDER-STAND!

BUT THERE'S ONE THING I DO KNOW.

HATRED CAN'T SAVE ANYONE, IT CAN ONLY DESTROY!!

HA... HAHA.

YOU DON'T GET IT, DO YOU?

YOU SOUND LIKE A COLLEGE STUDENT WRITING A THESIS...

THE HUMAN HEART HAS NO REASON!

TO THINK, A KID LIKE YOU TRYING TO UNDERSTAND MY HEART!

NOW, YOUR ACTIONS HAVE ONLY CREATED YET ANOTHER SUPERSTITION... PLANTED INCORRECT PRESUMPTIONS IN THE HEARTS OF HUMANS!

HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA

I... I WOULDN'T BE ALIVE TODAY IF IT WEREN'T FOR MY HATRED!

THIS ISN'T A JOKE!

HATRED CAN ONLY DESTROY, YOU SAY?!

I... WHA... THAT...

AFTER YOU KILL EVERY LAST PERSON IN THAT VILAGE...

IF NOT FOR THAT... I WOULD BE DEAD BY NOW!

THAT ALONE SUSTAINED MY LONELY HEART!

BECAUSE OF MY HATRED FOR THEM!

YOUR HATRED WILL ONLY TORMENT YOU MORE!

DON'T BE STUPID!

WILL YOUR HEART BE SAVED THEN?

WILL I BE ABLE TO DIE!

BUT ONLY WHEN I'M SATISFIED...

HAHAHA. MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT...

MOTHER! MOTHER!

SOB

AS IT IS NOW... EVEN IF I DIED, MY HATE WOULD LIVE ON!

YOU'RE WRONG!

YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A PARTLY MECHANICAL DOLL!

YOU SAID YOU'RE A CYBORG, DIDN'T YOU?

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S WRONG!

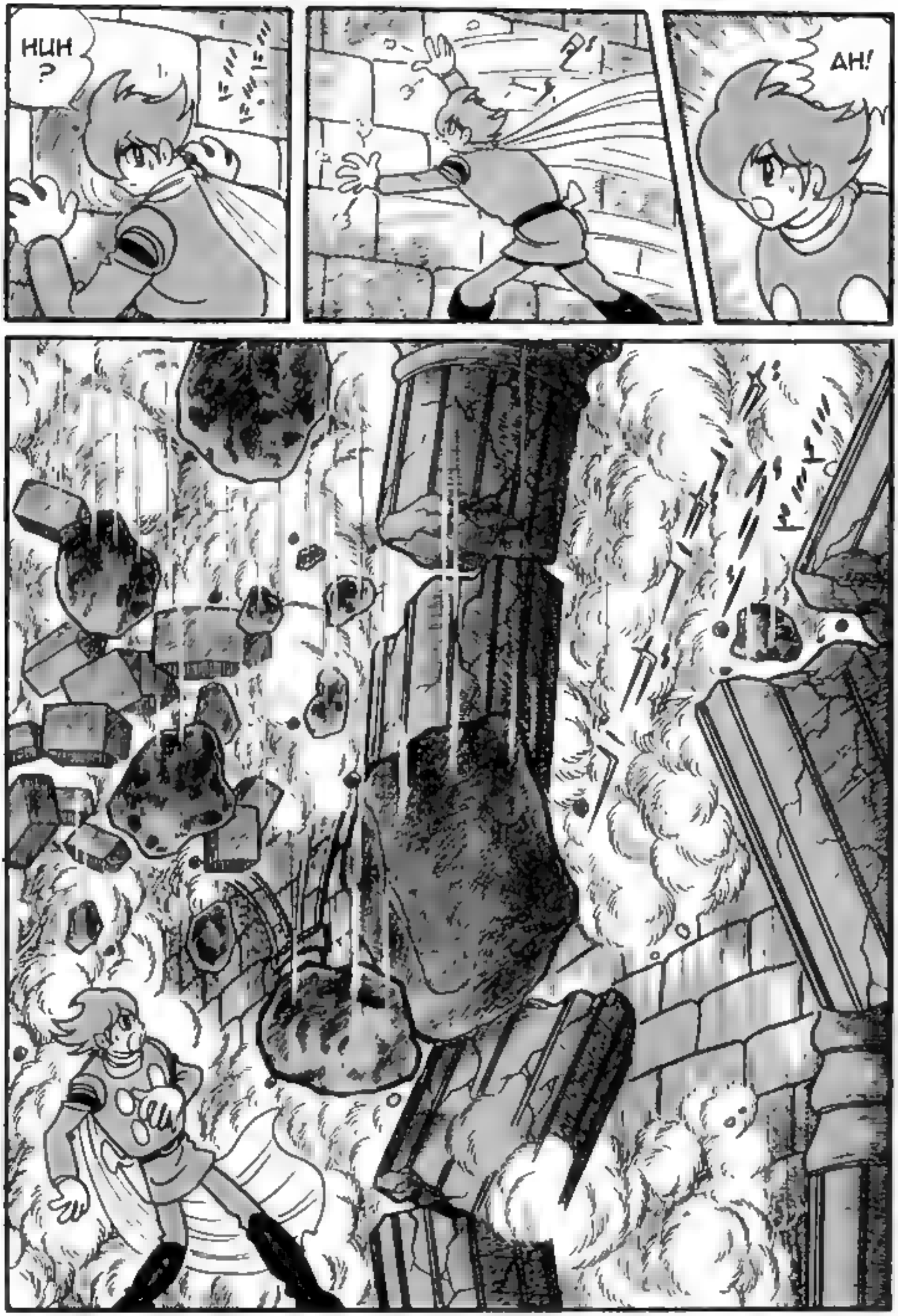
I'M WRONG?

YOU CAN NEVER UNDERSTAND A HUMAN HEART!

THEREFORE, YOU CAN THINK ONLY LIKE A MACHINE!

...

COME, LOMY!


НИН
?
АН!

HA... HA HA

MOTHER... STOP THIS...

WAHAHA-HAHAAA-HAHAH

STOP DOING SUCH TERRIBLE THINGS!!

CHE!

MOTHER!

YOU'RE LETTING THAT YOUNG MAN GET TO YOU!

COME, LOMY!

NOT ANYMORE...

I'M NOT PLAYING AROUND ANYMORE!

HEE HEE HEE

DON'T DO IT! DON'T DO THIS DREADFUL THING, MOTHER...

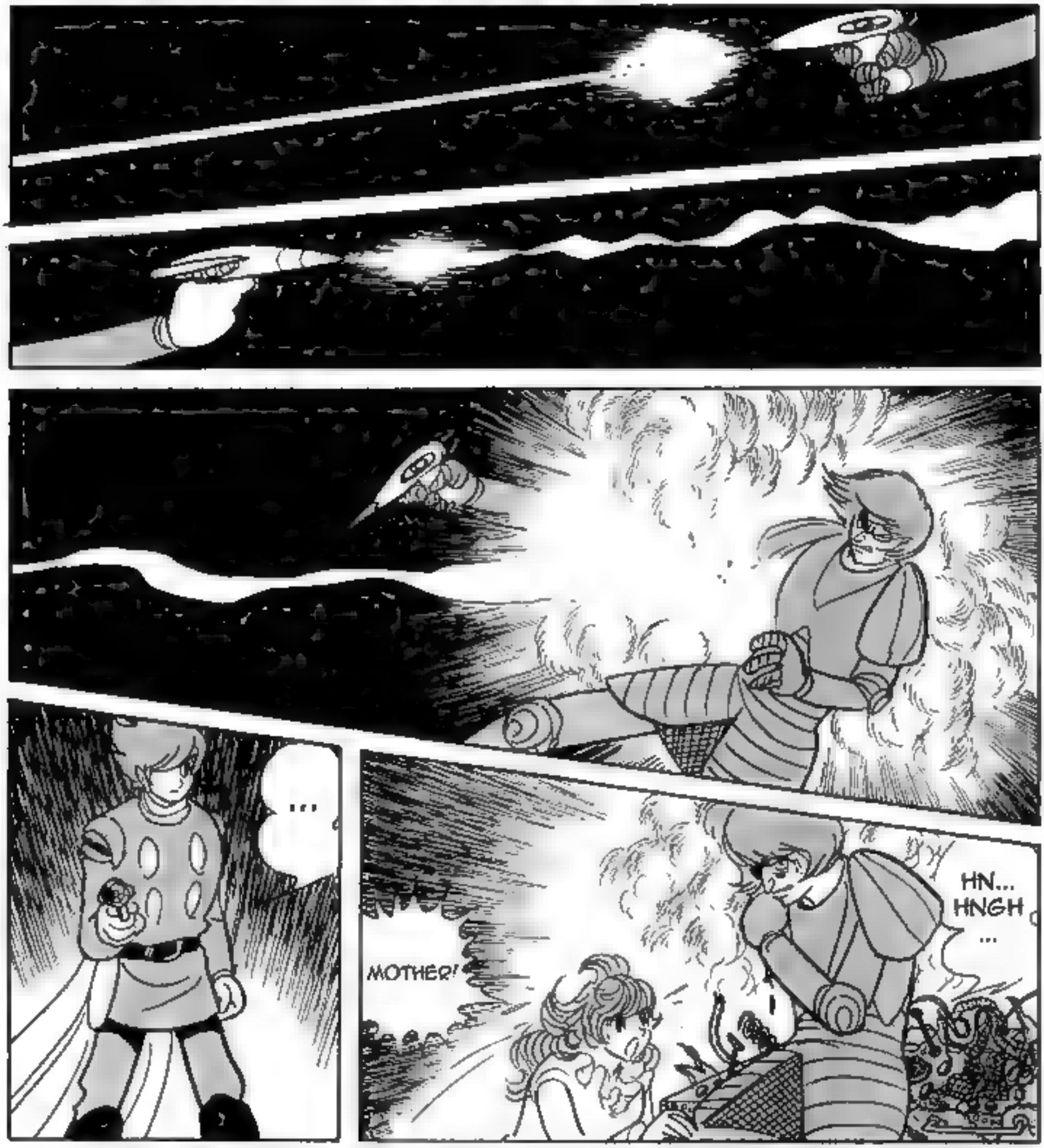
SLAP

SHUT UP!

I'LL RAISE THE VOLUME OF THE ULTRASONIC WAVE MUSIC...

AND KILL THE VILLAGE PEOPLE ALL AT ONCE...!

STAY THERE AND TRY STAYING QUIET FOR ONCE!
...
DON'T YOU TELL ME WHAT I SHOULD OR SHOULDN'T DO!
STOP RIGHT THERE!
OR ELSE...
GYUH!
D... DAMM IT!
Y- YOU...?
AH!


...
MOTHER!
HN... HNGH ...
YOU... IMPERTINENT LITTLE...!
BUT... FOR THAT VERY REASON, I THINK I KNOW MORE ABOUT JUSTICE THAN MOST PEOPLE!
I MAY BE HALF MACHINE ...

AS LONG AS I TAKE YOU WITH ME!

HA... HAHA. I'M FINE WITH DYING...

HUH ?!

HUHUHU HAHAHA

THE CASTLE... THE CASTLE IS GOING UP IN A PUFF OF SMOKE!

MOTHER !

MY POOR LOMY! THINKING OF ALL THE BAD WAYS MAMA HAS TREATED YOU... FORGIVE ME, LOMY!

MAMA...
MAMA!

GET OUT OF HERE! QUICKLY, RUN!

I'M STAYING WITH MY MOTHER!

...PLEASE, GET AWAY FROM HERE! SAVE YOUR-SELF...

HUH ?!

...

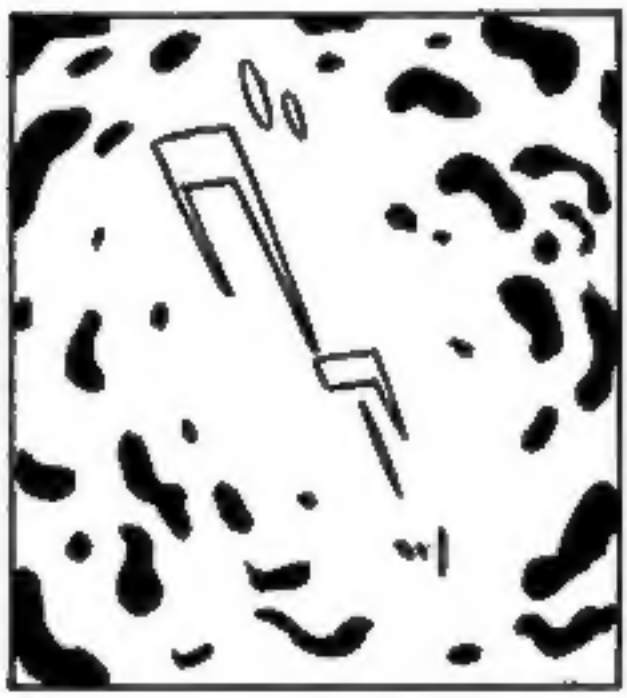
QUICK-LY!!

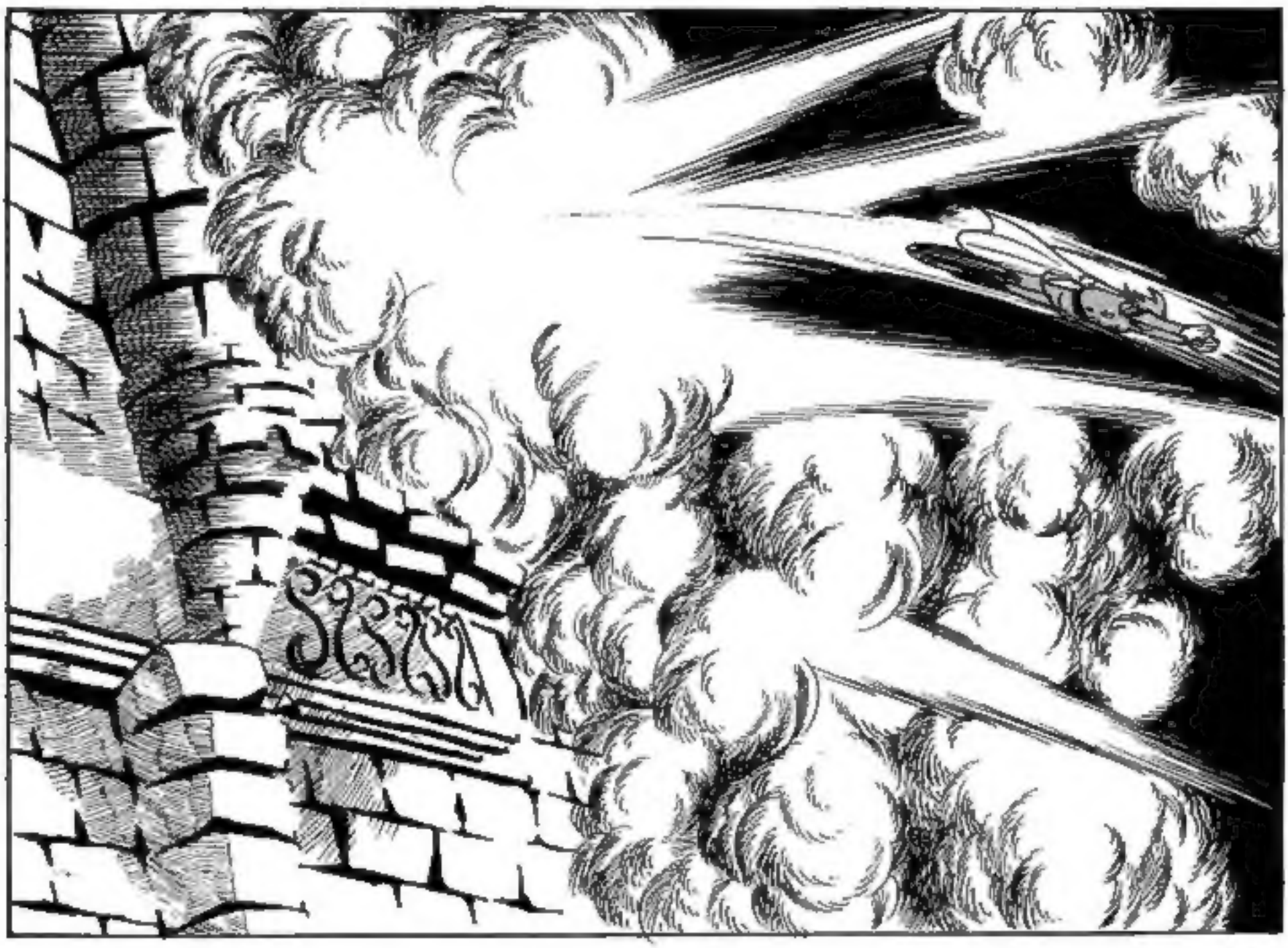
I'M BEG-GING YOU, LEAVE!

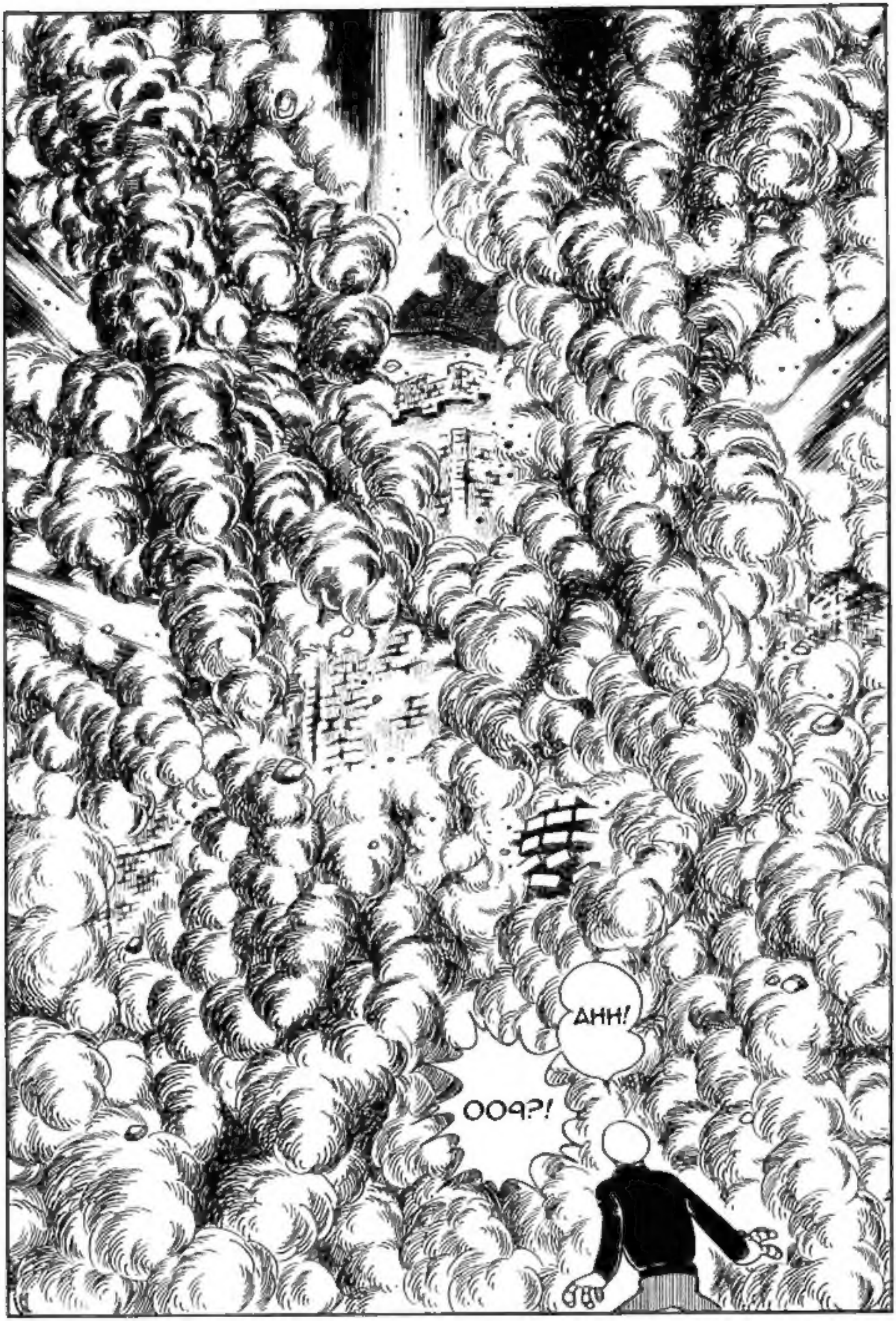
D... DON'T DO SOME-THING STUPID!

GYAH!

AAHH!!






AHH!
009?!

ARE YOU HURT?
ARE YOU OKAY?
OHH, JOE!
...NO...
NOTHING LIKE THAT...
JOE!
HM!
NOTHING ...
BUT ...
EH?
DID YOU KNOW THAT?
HEY, JOE. THAT KNIGHT WAS APPARENTLY A WOMAN...

...I TALKED TO THE LAST MAN SHE LEFT ALIVE.

I SEE.

YEAH ...

THAT WOMAN... SHE WAS SIMONE LORELEI, A PHYSICIST WORKING FOR A MILITARY RESEARCH FACILITY IN ANOTHER COUNTRY.

THOSE MEN WERE SENT BY THE FBI.

THE GOVERNMENT PANICKED, AND ORDERED AN FBI INVESTIGATION... AND THAT'S WHERE WE ARE NOW.

THE PROJECT WENT MISSING SIX MONTHS AGO...

AS IT TURNS OUT.... THEY WERE DOING RESEARCH ON USING ULTRA-SONIC WAVES AS WEAPONS.

...FAREWELL, LORELEI.

BAH, HONESTLY ...

THE TALE OF LORELEI'S SONG - **END**